

Craxi sentenced to 8½ years in jail

MILAN (AP) — A Milan court on Friday convicted former Italian Premier Bettino Craxi of complicity in fraudulent bankruptcy and sentenced him to 8 and ½ years in prison, Italian news reports said. The conviction of Mr. Craxi in absentia made him the highest-ranked figure to be convicted after two years of corruption probes that disgraced Italy's business and political class. Mr. Craxi, who has been at his Tunisian villa for weeks, has refused judicial orders to turn in his passport, and just two days ago, a Rome judge rejected a prosecutor's request in another case to order an international arrest warrant for him. Also convicted and sentenced to 8½ years was Mr. Craxi's former protege, ex-Justice Minister Claudio Martelli, the Italian news agency AGI reported. In Italy, appeals are routine, and convictions are not considered definite until after appeals and supreme court rulings. In the meantime, convicted defendants are usually allowed to be free. The trial dealt with the 1982 collapse, by fraudulent bankruptcy of Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's biggest post-war banking scandal.

Small Rwandan boy almost buried alive

BOMA, Zaire (AFP) — An AFP photographer said, in one of the many scenes of horror in the ongoing Rwandan crisis, he picked up while asleep a unconscious boy along with dozens of the corpses of the dead on the roadside near Boma, across the border on Rwanda, and now home more than a million refugees. Piled onto a truck at unloaded the bodies into a mass grave two kilometers north of the town, he was saved by the driver of an excavator who suddenly noticed a body move, the photographer said. The child, struggling to escape, had not smothered, was taken to a centre for test andphaned children.

Nubbed on trip Far East

KHABAROVSK, Russia (UPI) — Vladimir Zhirinovsky endured another snub in the head of the regional administration refused to meet with the ultranationalists during his nationwide tour. It was the second time in the past month Mr. Zhirinovsky has received a cool welcome in a regional capital. He began his tour last Saturday in an effort to last June Mr. Zhirinovsky angrily stormed into the governor's office in Nizhny Novgorod after being met at the airport by demonstrators who called him a fascist. Told him to go no further, regional officials had refused to meet him, and the governor — who was out of town at the time — later filed a complaint against Mr. Zhirinovsky for breaking into his office and threatening his life. Viktor Ishayev, head of Khabarovsk region in Russia's Far East, said he did not meet with Mr. Zhirinovsky or welcome him to the region, the R-TASS news agency reported. A Zhirinovsky spokesman in Moscow denied Mr. Ishayev's claim, saying such a meeting was "not important." Andreyev, Mr. Zhirinovsky's chief of staff, said his boss with Khabarovsk went to Vladivostok and then left for Vladivostok.

Women operate combat helicopters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army will send women to fly special operations Cobra and Apache helicopters flying cover in anti-aircraft units for tanks on the battlefield, Pentagon sources said Tuesday. But women are barred from operating heavy field artillery weapon systems like the Multiple Launch Rocket System or to fly choppers for special operations, who said the sources, who on condition of anonymity. The expanded role for women close to the battlefield is limited with the restrictions a compromise between Secretary of Defense Togo West and the speech, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times by the Jordan Information Bureau in London.

Germany (AFP) — A German-Russian expedition set off for the Arctic to study the effect of global warming. The Institute in this city, and it is to look into the influences of global warming on ice floes in the Sea. Expedition leader Koenig said the ice floes off the northern coast between the Zenith and Novaya Zembla and Novaya Zembla Islands.

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Mubarak, Rabin to meet in Taba

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israel-Egypt summit is planned for Sunday at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office announced Friday, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak is expected to brief Mr. Rabin about his meeting in Damascus last week with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, while Mr. Rabin will report to Mr. Mubarak about his talks with American and Jordanian leaders in Washington, Israeli reports said. The Israeli statement said only that the summit was scheduled for 1700 (1400 GMT) at the Hilton Hotel in Taba which borders on the southern Israeli city of Eilat. Egyptian officials confirmed the plans in a report carried by the Cairo-based Middle East News Agency. It would be the first Rabin-Mubarak meeting since May 4 when Egypt hosted the signing of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement that gave Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Israel initially suggested that Sunday's summit take place in the desert town of Beersheba, but Egypt apparently did not agree, an Israeli official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Mr. Rabin has had several summits with Mr. Mubarak since 1992, all of them in Egypt.

King winds up historic Washington visit, saying he is certain Jordanians support his initiative for peace, and assured of mission's success

Any peace treaty will be submitted to Parliament and to a plebiscite if necessary
PLO remains sole and legal representative of Palestinians and Jerusalem is for whole Umma

From George Hawawneh
in Washington

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein wound up his historic week-long visit to Washington Friday, saying he was confident of the Jordanian people's support for his peace initiative with Israel and assured of the success of his mission here.

The officials said, however, that they were confident that Parliament would endorse a peace treaty with Israel under the right conditions and it might not be necessary after all to hold a plebiscite.

Jordanian observers and analysts estimate that the government, once it has reached a treaty with Israel, could count on the support of about 57 members in the 80-seat Lower House as well as the vast majority of the 40-member Upper House.

The King strongly criticised rejectionist politicians, from both the far left and the extreme right (Islamists), who claimed for themselves the right to represent and speak on behalf of the Jordanian people and who oppose peace in the name of religion.

"After that, I am also thinking seriously of going to all the Jordanian people and holding a plebiscite on the issue," the King declared.

Senior Jordanian officials said he should keep our faith away from politics," he said, accusing the rejectionists of not being able to leave behind the mentality of the past and not understanding the politics and exigencies of today's world.

"We are on the threshold of a new era," the King said. "The peace that we are about to make is for the benefit of every citizen .. not for me personally."

In his luncheon meeting with the press, the King did not talk about the advantages that Jordan has won as a result of his historic meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He would only say that the meetings helped tear down "walls that prevented us in the past from seeing the human face of the other side (Israel)."

But the King's aides were more forthcoming on what had been achieved here in Washington.

"All doors that were closed have been opened before Jordan," the prime minister, Dr. Abdal Salam Majali, said.

Officials cite as landmark achievements for Jordan:

"The restoration of U.S.-Jordanian relations, which had suffered considerable damage as a result of the Gulf crisis and war, including tremendous improvement in ties with Congress.

"Our relations with the U.S. now are probably much stronger than they were before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," Jordan's Ambassador to the U.N. Adnan Abu Odeh said. "This is important not only because the U.S. is the only remaining superpower in the world, but also for its implications on our ties with the rest of the world."

Jordan's political role in the region and its indispensability to any emerging new order in the Middle East have been ascertained. "We would have been marginalised had we not chosen to pursue this path," Mr. Abu Odeh said.

"We should expect countries even like Saudi Arabia to lift its boycott against us," said another senior official.

Asked if he had requested President Clinton to use his influence with Riyadh to lift that boycott, the King said he did not raise the subject. But one of the King's aides told the Jordan Times that such a request was unnecessary since Saudi Arabia would soon have to understand that there is no escape from patching relations with Jordan.

Likewise, the officials were confident that ties with Syria have not suffered as a result of the Washington meetings.

The King announced here that contacts with Syria would be resumed soon and that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had told him Cairo was surprised by reports that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would oppose the Washington Declaration.

"It is hopefully a roller coaster from here, and we should expect more economic and financial assistance over the coming period."

Jordanian and U.S. officials are still discussing two more assistance programmes from the U.S., namely a currency stabilisation fund for the Jordanian Dinar and annual grants to the Jordanian budget. But no concrete results have been achieved yet on either one, due to complex technicalities involved and also to the fact that congressional elections are coming up in November and it is usually difficult for the U.S. Congress to expand foreign aid in such years.

"Add to the above

(Continued on page 7)



Britain to write off JD60 million of Jordanian government debts

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government is writing off around JD60 million of Jordan's debt by converting loans to grants, following American promises to help the Kingdom's stability following the historic breakthrough made in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations.

"I know from my own discussions with the King that the burden of accumulated debt has weighed heavily on Jordan," Mr. Major said. "If we can alleviate this burden, I believe that we can help Jordan's economic growth and democratisation and underpin the new relationship with Israel."

"I am therefore delighted to announce tonight that Britain will be converting outstanding balances of loans to Jordan by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to grant," he said. "This will be worth approximately £60 million and is a powerful signal of our support."

According to figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the Kingdom's government-to-government debts to Britain stood at JD52.1 million at the end of 1993, or about £54 million at present exchange rates.

Mr. Major paid tribute to the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the U.S. capital on Monday.

"We wish to support Jordan in every way we can along the path charted by King Hussein," Mr. Major said.

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2 Middle East News

U.S. may pull plug on U.N. in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — With clans still fighting, looting, extorting and unable or unwilling to form a government, Washington is preparing to seek a United Nations pullout from Somalia.

The Security Council would begin a review of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) on Friday, and the United States was to ask that the mission be shut down or greatly reduced.

A U.N. withdrawal would raise the possibility of all-out clan war for political supremacy in Somalia — the sort of struggle that led to a 1992 famine that killed more than 350,000 people.

It also would reduce the aid Somalia receives, already diminished by the withdrawal of most private relief agencies. Many found the costs and dangers too high, coupled with falling donations once Somalia faded from the world's television screens.

The Security Council review comes two days after a new outbreak of fighting in Mogadishu between sub-clans loyal to the country's two main warlords.

The fighting Wednesday was the latest in a series of battles, most lasting four or five days, that began in April between the Habre Gedir and the Hawadle, both sub-clans of their Hawiye clan.

It may have been the kiss of death for UNOSOM.

The Habre Gedir are loyal to General Mohammad Farrah Aideed, the warlord the American military fought before leaving Mogadishu last March. The Hawadle are supported by Gen. Aideed's chief rival, Ali Mahdi Mohamud.

James Victor Gbeho, a Ghanaian who serves as U.N. special envoy to Somalia, acknowledged Wednesday that the international community is losing patience with Somalia.

But Mr. Gbeho said it would be a mistake for the Security Council to pull the plug on the costly U.N. mission in Somalia.

Adopting the U.S. approach to Somalia would have consequences "too ghastly to contemplate," he said.

"I think Rwanda has come at an appropriate time as a reminder to us that the international community should never turn its back on problems such as those we are experiencing both in Rwanda

and Somalia."

But Mr. Gbeho told a news conference in Nairobi, Kenya, that while the Security Council may not shut down the Somali operation altogether, it is likely to do it.

The Security Council will make less resources available to UNOSOM, largely because those contributors who are fed up with Somalia will make less resources available," he predicted.

The contributor most fed up with Somalia is the United States, which bears about one third of the cost of U.N. peacekeeping missions. The cost of the Somalia mission to date is about \$1.5 billion.

Somalia also has cost more than 30 American lives, including 18 soldiers killed in a vicious firefight with Gen. Aideed's militia in Mogadishu last October. Those deaths led to the U.S. withdrawal and a continuing reluctance by Washington to commit troops to other U.N. peacekeeping missions, in Bosnia, Rwanda and elsewhere.

Washington made its annoyance clear in May, when the Security Council voted to extend the UNOSOM mandate until Sept. 30. The United States went along, but only after getting the council to agree to review the decision in 45 days.

A new U.S. ambassador, Danie Simpson, arrived in early July and immediately told faction leaders that unless some sort of government was in place by the end of the month, America would end its support.

The major factions agreed in March to establish a government of national reconciliation, but Mr. Gbeho acknowledged that progress has been "painfully slow." A proposed conference of Somali leaders to form a government has been postponed five times and still is not in sight.

Meanwhile, U.N. convoys have been ambushed and looted, several peacekeepers have been killed in crossfire from the frequent clan clashes, six foreigners have been kidnapped on the streets of Mogadishu and most aid agencies have left the country.

"Some Somali elements have no qualms about biting the hands that feed them," the U.N. special envoy admitted ruefully.

U.S. may seek tough Libya sanction

WASHINGTON (USA) — The United States rejects Libya's attempts to evade the U.S.-U.K. demand for extradition of two Libyan nationals believed to be responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988, says a U.S. official.

And if Libya continues to refuse to surrender the suspects, the United States favours increased sanctions against Libya, including a complete oil embargo, Barbara Bodine, State Department counterterrorism coordinator, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on International Security Thursday.

But she also said Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's regime is experiencing the negative impact of U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed earlier against Libya in an effort to compel the release of the two suspects to U.S. and British authorities.

Grand juries in the United States and the United Kingdom have handed down criminal indictments against the two Libyans suspected in the attack.

Ms. Bodine said the administration believes that "the increasing difficulties experienced by Libya as a result of the sanctions are causing that government to propose alternatives, unacceptable,

though they are, to a trial in the U.S. or Scotland."

"Libyan half-measures such as proposing that the trial be held in the Hague" at the World Court "or that the U.N. Security Council establish a special tribunal to hear the case are simply unacceptable," she said.

"We have publicly rejected such proposals in the past, and we do so today. We believe that a trial for the accused must take place in the United States or Scotland," she declared.

Libya's proposals "are intended to evade" Security Council resolutions 731 and 883, which imposed economic sanctions as a means of forcing Qaddafi's hand. "Libya's proposals will not do justice to the victims of this terrible act of mass murder. They would instead be a miscarriage of justice," Ms. Bodine told legislators.

The United States "is not satisfied" with the enforcement efforts of some nations and wants greater international cooperation on the matter, she said. Washington already has frozen about \$1,000 million in Libyan government assets and is sending teams to pressure Western European allies to abide fully by the U.N. resolutions, said Ms. Bodine.

In addition, the Treasury Department is preparing to take financial action against Libyan companies in Europe and individuals who operate them for Libya, she said, also warning that the United States advocates increased sanctions against Libya — including an oil embargo — if it does not surrender the suspects.

Subcommittee Chairman Tom Lantos predicted that the European allies will never agree to an oil embargo against Libya. He proposed instead that the United States unilaterally impose a naval blockade on Libya to cut off all trade through its ports. Such a step is necessary to make it clear to Tripoli that the United States intends to have access to the two Libyan suspects, said the congressman.

Thus far, he asserted, the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations all have failed to pressure Libya adequately to gain their release.

In the Lockerbie matter and with other terrorist crimes the United States and the world community have "failed to act swiftly and decisively" to bring perpetrators to justice, Mr. Lantos contended.

Ms. Bodine told Mr. Lantos that a unilateral move such as a naval blockade would set the dangerous precedent of going beyond what

the Security Council had ordered. The United States and the world community rely on international consensus achieved through the Security Council, she noted.

Noting that Congress is bipartisan on the subject of "terrorism," Mr. Lantos announced that he and House Republican assistant leader Newt Gingrich intend to introduce legislation next week to encourage the president to seek an international summit for the purpose of galvanising world support against "terrorism."

One objective of the proposed summit would be to focus on irresponsible governments that hide and provide financial support for terrorists, Mr. Lantos said. He reiterated his previous charges that the governments of Syria and Iran might have been involved in the conspiracy that investigators say led to the planting of a disguised bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103.

The strongest efforts against rogue regimes that view terrorism as just another tool of foreign policy must at long last be applied," he said. In the meantime, Congress wants the State Department to provide a list of countries that are not complying fully with the sanctions already in place against Libya, Mr. Lantos said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baker backs U.S. troops on Golan

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said he would back sending U.S. troops to police a Syria-Israel peace on the Golan Heights. "It's something that is clearly in the national interests of the United States," Mr. Baker told Israel Television in an interview taped in Washington. "If the modalities could be worked out, it's something that ought to be seriously considered." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that an American presence on the Golan Heights would convince Israelis that withdrawing from the strategic plateau would be worthwhile. But some Republican senators have opposed the plan, saying it would risk American lives. But Mr. Baker, who served in former President George Bush's Republican administration, said U.S. forces were right for the job. "A peaceful Middle East is important, not just to America frankly but to many countries around the world, and I cannot think of a more appropriate or a more important role for American security forces," he said.

Israel probes anti-Arab summer camp

TEL AVIV (R) — Police are investigating a summer camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that offers Israeli youths weapons training and anti-Arab lectures, Israel's education minister said on Friday. "Ministry of education officials checked the issue and passed it on to the police and the attorney general and the law will operate in this matter," Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told Israel's army radio. Israeli media said this week 15 boys aged 11 to 18 trained with automatic weapons and attended lectures on the ideology of the outlawed Kach organisation at a summer camp at Kiryat Arba, a Jewish settlement near Hebron. Israel outlawed Kach and a related organisation Kahane Chai, shortly after a settler from Kiryat Arba shot dead more than 30 Palestinians at a mosque in Hebron on Feb. 25. The settler had once been a member of Kach. Those running the camp have denied breaking the law. They say teaching the philosophy of Rabbi Men Kahane, slain in New York in 1990, is not illegal. Kahane, who preached the expulsion of Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories, founded Kach.

Passport of Malaysian prince ordered seized

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Kuala Lumpur has ordered the confiscation of the passport of the brother of the king of Malaysia in punishment for visiting Israel. Premier Mahathir Mohamad was Friday reported as saying. Mr. Mahathir said the cabinet decided on Wednesday to seize the passport of Prince Abdullah Rahman, who admitted on July 16 that he went on a three-day trip last month to investigate business possibilities in Israel. "The weekly cabinet meeting discussed the issue although it was not on the agenda. When a person misuses his passport, we will take it back," Mr. Mahathir was reported in local newspapers as saying in northeastern Trengganu state late Thursday. He said he did not know whether the prince's passport had already been seized by the authorities. Prince Tunku Abdullah, the 68-year-old younger brother of King Tunku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman, returned from overseas last week. But his aides said Friday that the prince had clarified his visit and didn't want to issue any more statements.

UAE seizes 200 kilogrammes of hashish

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has seized around 200 kilogrammes of hashish and arrested eight people, including two Asians for drug smuggling, local newspapers reported. The drugs were seized on Wednesday in a boat off the emirate of Sharjah and were destined for another Gulf Arab country, the papers said. Coast guard and police raids resulted in the arrest of eight people, including two Asians inside the UAE, they said without identifying those arrested or the targeted country. It was the second biggest drug haul seized in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the UAE. In 1991, police seized nearly three tonnes of hashish in a boat off the port of Khor Fakkan in the Gulf of Oman and several Pakistanis were arrested in the operation. The UAE has joined neighbouring Saudi Arabia in introducing death punishment against drug traffickers but nobody has so far been executed.

Suspect admits Italian sailors' killings

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian state television late Thursday broadcast the confession of an Algerian man, Demetri Omar, accused of involvement in the killing of seven Italian sailors here on July 7. Two other people shown in the broadcast and presented as members of an armed Islamic organisation, are accused of murdering two Algerian lawyers, while a young engineer was accused of being a bomb-maker. Omar, 31, described the circumstances in which an armed group of 15 Islamic fundamentalists killed the seven Italian sailors after boarding their boat. Omar said he had himself killed three of the Italians, cutting their throats after tying their hands and feet while they slept in their ship's cabin. He also named the head of the group as one Sheriff Bouzid.

Moroccan court jails cheating student

RABAT (R) — A woman who let students see examination papers was one of 16 people who drew jail terms and fines in a Morocco cheating scandal, lawyers said on Thursday. Police said Leila Moustaphi, in charge of papers at the Casablanca Faculty of Medicine, slipped them to a student in return for 10,000 dirhams (\$1,111) and a promise of marriage. She was sentenced to four years in prison and fined 5,000 dirhams (3555) while the others, mostly medical students, drew the same fine and lesser jail terms. The Casablanca court of appeal also gave 17 other trainee doctors three-month suspended sentences and 10,000-dirham (\$1,111) fines, lawyers said.

Islam gains members in U.S. as Americans learn more, experts say

WASHINGTON (USA) — Interest and curiosity about Islam are prompting more and more Americans to study and increase their awareness and appreciation of the religion, says Sayyid Muhammad Syeed, secretary general of the Islamic Society of North America.

According to one source, "The Muslims of America," America's Muslim population has increased substantially in urban areas and has developed institutions across the country. Records from the city of Philadelphia show that more than 7 million Muslims live in the United States and about 3 million U.S. residents are of Arab origin.

Across the country there are more than 600 mosques/Islamic centres, two Islamic colleges, scores of parochial day schools, several hundreds weekend schools, women's organisations, youth groups, and professional and civil organisations.

Mr. Syeed, who has been actively involved in fostering understanding among the

world's religions and played a prominent role in founding the American Muslim Council, said that in the United States, the second generation of Muslim youth is a "phenomenon."

He said that 20 years ago, he and other committed Muslims were concerned that Islam would not take root among Americans. "But today," he reported, "Muslims from abroad, a new generation (in the U.S.) and bright and brilliant American (converts to the faith) will take the banner of Islam in America."

Also participating in the dialogue was Khalid Abdul Hadi Blankinship, a professor of Islamic Studies at Temple University and an American convert to the Islamic religion, who explained that "the people keep coming despite the lack of resources... The religion tends to move itself."

Today, Mr. Blankinship said, "we have a rising class of Americans who are scho-

lars, who are familiar with the religion."

In a nation that despairs about the decline of family values, he said, Islam generates a strong appeal due to its structure and strong moral message. He noted that "(Islam) has been very attractive in inner-city neighbourhoods." In the African-American community, he reported, "We do believe that Islam can provide a possible model for reconstruction of society."

Both speakers noted that American Muslims are becoming more involved in the political process. They said that even though American Muslims have only recently begun to organise themselves politically, they have been instrumental in encouraging dialogue among religious faiths, the U.S. government, Arab and Muslim governments, and Islamic movements around the world.

Mr. Syeed said that Muslim-friendly city laws that have been passed in the United States and Muslim holidays are often noted and explained in the popular press. "The inauguration of the Senate and the Congress with the recitation of The Koran (and) the message from the president of the Eid Al Fit, for example... these symbolic gestures go a long way in giving a better image of Islam," he said.

"When my children go to school... their classmates have heard about Ramadan. They have heard about Eid... So then they feel more comfortable to discuss Islam in a positive light," he said.

Mr. Syeed also reported that he interviewed a Muslim who recently had been elected mayor of a Texas town. "We asked him (the mayor) to analyse what went into his success. Is there a large number of Muslims in that city?" said Mr. Syeed, who noted that the mayor's family were the only Muslims in that city. "But the people there have recognised him as a trustworthy person so he

got the largest number of votes. And this scene is being repeated in other cities as well at different (government) levels," Mr. Syeed said.

Mr. Blankinship, when asked about the loss of religious principles among young American Muslims, replied that Muslim children often grow up with very little community with Islam. "They would come back to the mosque in the end only to bury people, which was like burying the religion itself," he said.

But despite the erosion of religious principles worldwide, Mr. Blankinship described the future as "not bleak, but very hopeful. Because there is more of a Muslim community now.... There is more of a social basis for keeping the children in the fold of Islam." And, he said, the loss of committed Muslims in that city. "But the people there have recognised him as a trustworthy person so he

got the largest number of votes. And this scene is being repeated in other cities as well at different (government) levels," Mr. Syeed said.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:26 Vienna (QA)
13:30 Muscat, Doha (GF)
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)
20:00 Sanas (TY)

20:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:25 Cairo (MS)
22:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
06:45 London (RJ)
06:45 Paris (RJ)

06:45 London (RJ)

Most of Latin America is against U.S. invading Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Most Latin American and Caribbean nations have come out against a military intervention to restore democracy in Haiti, as proposed by the United States, diplomats said.

The regional Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), at a meeting here Thursday decided to request "giving more time for international sanctions and negotiations to work" their opinion on Haiti's military leaders, said Mexico's Deputy Ambassador Gustavo Albin.

Fritz Longchamp, who represents Haiti's legal government under exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said the strongest opposition to an intervention came from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay.

Longchamp said he would back the use of force to evict the military commanders in Haiti who overthrew Mr.

Aristide in September 1991.

A U.S. proposal for military intervention, presented Monday to the U.N. Security Council, has raised concern among the five permanent and 10 rotating Council members, thwarting the chance of it being approved Friday as planned.

Latin American diplomats said the Council would pass the proposal, sooner or later, despite their group's opposition. Argentina and Brazil are the only GRULAC members on the Council at present.

Argentinian diplomats said their government backed the U.S. proposal and is prepared to contribute "around 600 soldiers" to a multinational intervention force, which would be led, financed and largely manned by the United States.

Brazil opposes a military intervention and has pointed out that Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, invoked by the

U.S. proposal, sanctions the use of force only when world peace and security are threatened.

Although the Haitian crisis presents no such threat, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has backed the U.S. initiative and recommended creating an international force to restore Mr. Aristide to power.

The U.N. chief's view on the issue, included in a report last week, was criticised by GRULAC members, some of whom regretted his omission of any possible negotiated solution to the Haitian problem.

As a first step, the U.S. blueprint calls for the deployment in Haiti of a multinational force to overthrow the coup leaders and reinstate Mr. Aristide.

After a "stable environment" is restored to the island, a 6,000-strong U.N. mission in Haiti would take on the task of nurturing the island back to democracy.

Nussbaum defends actions in Whitewater storm

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton's former counsel Bernard Nussbaum, in sometimes emotional testimony Thursday, defended his actions at the center of the Whitewater storm as it enveloped the White House.

He said he regretted not having done a better job for Mr. Clinton by being more forthcoming to the press as questions grew about contacts between the White House and Treasury officials, leading to his resignation last April.

But he made no apologies for his contacts, saying he had a duty to inform the president about a possible criminal investigation in which he was potentially involved so he was not "blinded" by media inquiries.

Mr. Nussbaum was testifying at the second day of hearings by the House of Representatives Banking Committee into the Whitewater affairs, which stems from Mr. Clinton's financial affairs in Arkansas in the 1970s and 1980s.

The contacts concerned a decision by the Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC), which investigated failed savings and loan institutions, to refer an investigation of the collapsed Madison Guaranty Savings Loan to the Justice Department for a possible criminal probe. Mr. Clinton was named as a possible witness.

Madison head James McDougal and his wife Susan were partners of Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary in a vacation development project in Arkansas known as Whitewater.

An issue is whether federally insured funds from the bank were funnelled into the failed investment and into retiring a Clinton campaign debt.

Current White House counsel Lloyd Cutler told the committee Tuesday that no ethical rules were broken in the contacts but said too many people were involved.

Nussbaum said it was proper for the president to be advised of an investigation concerning himself that was likely to lead to press inquiries.

Mr. Nussbaum also said he had been concerned about a decision by Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman to separate, or recuse, himself from the Madison investigation at a time when Mr. Altman was acting head of the RTC because there was no legal or ethical reason to do so.

He said he was concerned about what Mr. Altman was considering doing "but I did not tell him to remain in the matter. I told him that if he was legally or ethically required to recuse himself, he should do so promptly."

Mr. Altman recused himself from the Madison investigation and stepped down as interim head of the RTC on Feb. 25.

Mr. Nussbaum, who has returned to his law practice in New York, spoke emotionally about his White House service, saying he had been naive and should have worked more effectively with the press.

Talks to end Nigeria oil strike look bleak

LAGOS (R) — A strike by oil workers supporting detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola is beginning to hurt Nigeria's oil industry, business sources said Friday.

Talks with the government on ending the stoppage was due to resume later Friday but a union leader said they were unlikely to resolve the dispute.

One union has said it would stay away from the talks in protest against the killing of demonstrators by security forces Thursday during clashes outside the court where Mr. Abiola is on trial for treason.

"If they release Abiola unconditionally and accept all our demands we will end the strike within 24 hours," Bola Owodunni, president of the oil union PENGASSAN, told Reuters.

The oil workers went on strike four weeks ago soon after Mr. Abiola's arrest by the military government. Mr. Abiola is widely believed to have won a presidential election in June 1993 which the military annulled. He declared himself president last month.

The strike by PENGASSAN, the white-collar oil workers' union and NUPENG, its junior partner, has crippled domestic oil supplies and production of crude oil is being reduced.

"We are beginning to see the impact of the strike," a shipping agent specialising in oil cargoes told Reuters.

"The tanks at the terminals are no longer full," he added.

A senior staff member at a multinational said: "The downward direction which we experienced from early on in the strike is now more pronounced."

The two unions also want an improvement in the management of the industry, the Nigerian economy's backbone. Their meeting with government negotiators Monday ended inconclusively.

"We are going because staying away does not let

them know our feelings but we do not believe the meeting will produce any results," Mr. Owodunni said of Friday's planned talks.

A NUPENG spokesman said the union was undecided on whether to attend the meeting.

NUPENG President Wariebi Agamene said Thursday the union would stay away from the talks in protest against the killing of pro-democracy protesters.

One person was killed during the clashes in Abuja and another killed in Lagos during a march.

Unconfirmed reports said up to five people have been killed in the clashes.

Mr. Abiola's case was adjourned to Tuesday.

His detention has thrown Nigeria into chaos with protests and strikes that have hit many services. Several other unions are also demanding his release and an end to military rule in Africa's most populous nation.

Lagos International Airport, closed Thursday after air traffic controllers went on strike to demand better conditions, was back in operation Friday after they suspended the action.

The air traffic controllers' strike coincided with those of other airport workers in support of Mr. Abiola.

U.S. envoy Jesse Jackson, who arrived in Nigeria Wednesday with a message from President Bill Clinton, said after meeting Mr. Abiola and military ruler General Sani Abacha that he detected no shift in the stand of the rival leaders.

Mr. Abiola maintained that he was legally elected while Gen. Abacha wanted to press on with a constitutional conference to draw up a new political agenda.

Rev. Jackson told a news conference if the two men remained inflexible the tensions could worsen and lead to civil war, adding: "Rwanda will be small by comparison."

Rev. Jackson left for home early Friday.

French leaders at odds on more nuclear testing

PARIS (AFP) — A possible move by France to restart nuclear testing in the Pacific lies at the heart of a "major disagreement" between centre-left French President Francois Mitterrand and his conservative government.

The government is looking to carry out new tests after next May's presidential elections, when Mr. Mitterrand will step down, ending a moratorium which Paris has observed since April 1992.

To date, France has undertaken 192 subterranean tests beneath the Mururoa Atoll since 1975, according to the Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA).

Mr. Mitterrand has already admitted the issue is a rare but major source of friction between him and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's administration.

Citing his authority over the nuclear issue as head of state, Mr. Mitterrand has threatened to call a referendum if the disagreement on testing erupts into a serious crisis.

He recently said that res-

tating testing was out of the question as long as the United States, Britain and Russia abided by their own moratoria. The United States recently extended its ban until September 1995.

Mr. Mitterrand has also expressed his belief that his successor as president will not relaunch testing at Mururoa, "because France will not want to offend the entire world by relaunching nuclear over-armament."

For supporters of the moratorium, a return to French testing would put France in a very awkward position and compromise its improving links with states in the South Pacific, who are virulently opposed to a resumption of testing around Mururoa.

More testing would make it difficult to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995, at a time when France is pushing for the adoption of international sanctions against communist North Korea, whom the West suspects of making nuclear weapons.

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Top general killed in Madrid blast

MADRID (R) — A top army general and two other soldiers were killed when a car bomb, believed to be the work of ETA Basque separatists, rocked the heart of Madrid during rush hour Friday morning, officials said.

General Francisco Viegas, director-general of defence policy, was passing in his armoured plated car when the bomb exploded in Plaza Ramblas, just 200 metres from the royal palace.

Gen. Viegas' bodyguard and driver were also killed and 14 people were injured in the blast, which ripped through the triangular square at 8.45 am. (0645 GMT), shattering windows and engulfing parked cars in flames.

The force of the blast, composed of around 20 kilos of explosive, hurled one of the bodies onto a nearby balcony, witnesses said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bomb but ETA has often targeted military officers in their 25-year armed campaign for an independent Basque state.

Local officials had little doubt who was behind the attack, with the ruling Socialists condemning the "futile terrorism."

The area of maze-like, cobbled streets contains several historical buildings. One of the city's landmark churches, the Iglesia De Santiago, was damaged by the blast.

The injured included several members of the Spanish national dance company which is based in the Plaza Ramblas, close to the headquarters of the old Royal Guards.

ETA's last major attack in the capital took place just over a year ago when five soldiers and two civilians were killed in two separate car bombs in June.

They last struck on June 1 when an army general was shot dead on his way to work, prompting fears ETA had managed to re-establish an active unit based in Madrid.

Another officer was killed by a bomb attached to his car on May 23.

"We are tired of cursing these assassins. They target that which is most sacred — life itself," Madrid Mayor Jose Maria Alvarez Del Manzano said at the scene.

Friday's attack struck at the heart of the city's old section, close to the Puerto Del Sol Square — a favourite meeting-place for both tourists and locals.

Police were mounting a special operation to try and track down those responsible for the attack which coincides with one of summer's busiest traffic weekends as millions of people leave the capital at the start of traditional August holidays.

Road blocks were being set up on motorways leading out of the city and helicopters will also take part in the operation.

Russia returns navy base to Estonia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia turned over its navy base in Tallinn to the Estonian Navy Thursday, two days after Russian and Estonian leaders agreed on the terms of the pullout of 2,500 Russian troops remaining in the Baltic state, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

No special ceremonies marked the transfer of the navy facilities in the Estonian capital, a Russian Navy spokesman said.

Originally scheduled celebrations that were to be attended by the commander-in-chief of the Russian Baltic Fleet, Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, were cancelled for "unknown" reasons, the Baltic News Service reported.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Lennart Meri of Estonia had Tuesday signed an agreement ending the Russian military presence in the Baltic nation by Aug. 31.

No agreement has however been reached on the dismantling of Russian nuclear reactors at Paldiski, a former Soviet Navy base 40 kilometres west of the Estonian capital.

Russia pledged last year to withdraw all troops from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by Aug. 31. But Moscow later went back on the promise to pull out of Estonia, demanding that the rights of the Russian-speaking minority which makes up 28 per cent of the total population and of 10,000 former Soviet army pensioners must first be guaranteed.

The naval base used to service 12 ships, but only one remains, and "we don't even have enough men to run that ship," said Anatoly Derevyanko, deputy commander of the base at the nearly deserted base.

Estonian officials, mean-

while, said it appeared the pace of the Russian withdrawal was speeding up.

"It seems the troops are moving out extremely fast now," said Juri Kork, a press spokesman at Estonia's Defense Headquarters.

Russia's red, white and blue flag was lowered from the officer's club several weeks ago and has not been seen since. A white statue of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin that stood by the front gate for decades was recently packed and shipped to Russia.

The Estonian president has faced criticism at home from opponents who say he conceded too much to Russia, including social guarantees for some 10,000 retired Russian military officers.

But Mr. Meri defended the accord as good for Estonia and said he would keep his vow not to drink champagne until the last Russian soldier leaves Estonian soil.

IRA blamed as mortar attack wounds 18

BELFAST (R) — Suspected IRA guerrillas injured 29 people, including children, Friday when three mortar bombs were fired at a police station in Northern Ireland, police said.

Nine police died in an IRA attack on the station in 1985.

A nearby hospital said it was flooded with injured people — many of them cut by flying glass — and a spokesman said two police officers were badly wounded.

"Three mortars were fired from a lorry in a car park outside a police station in Newry," a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said 24 of those hurt were civilians, one a three-year-old boy.

outside. There were a number of casualties, both police and civilian."

Police blamed the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which has waged a 25-year war to oust British troops from Northern Ireland.

The spokesman said 24 of those hurt were civilians, one a three-year-old boy.

According to information we got from (Cambodian) hostages released yesterday, the three Vietnamese have already been killed and the three Westerners were moved to the Khmer Rouge headquarters," the director of the State Railway, Pich Kimsreang, said.

It assured Mr. Clinton that the government "firmly determined to undertake the necessary reform of the armed forces." It also said Australia, France, Malaysia and Indonesia have already "appreciated our measures and put forward concrete aid."

Officials at the Malaysian embassy here, however, told AFP that Malaysia had "absolutely no intention" of giving military assistance to Cambodia.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans favoured military aid to the Cambodian government in comments earlier this week, but French Minister for European Affairs Alain Lamassoure said Thursday that it was more important to help Phnom Penh restructure its armed forces.

Senior officials from the Indonesian Defence Ministry also met Prince Ranariddh and Cambodian co-Defence Ministers Tea Banh and Tea Chantharith Thursday, government officials said.

Western countries have been reluctant, however, to provide weapons and lethal military assistance. Military experts say it is far more important to first train and reform the armed forces, otherwise lethal aid could be counter-productive as corrupt commanders might sell weapons to the Khmer Rouge.

The government captured the Khmer Rouge's Pailin headquarters in northwest Cambodia in March but lost it to a guerrilla counter-

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World News

Russian police storm hijack helicopter, 5 dead

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Seeking to expand the cultural and technical variety of the Venice Film Festival, organisers announced a line-up spanning from blockbuster American director Oliver Stone's 16-millimetre film of 24-year-old French actress Karin Dardi, Stone's *Pigalle* — the name of Paris red-light district — among 15 films by directors from 12 nations competing for the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion. The 51st edition of the festival runs from Sept. 1 to Sept. 12. The festival's director, Gillo Pontecorvo, said efforts were made to keep the film competition as international as possible. But like last year, American directors dominate the non-competing films, even of the 12 to be shown American-made, including *Gump*, *Forrest Gump*, *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Henry Selick and Guillermo del Toro's The Book of Life* (To Craziness). Other films competing include: *La La Y La Luna (The Breath of the Moon)* by Spain's Bigas Luna; *Magician* by Ildiko Enyedi depicting Canada and Hungary; *Heavenly Creatures* by Peter Jackson of New Zealand; *Yangguang Canlan De Mi (Sunny Days)* by Jiang Nan of China; *Before I Fall* by Milcho Manchevski; *Macedonia*; *Zivot A Objezna Dobroudzuvka* by Ivana Conkina (*The Life and Extraordinary Adventure of Simple Soldier Chonkin*) by Jiri Menzel entered by the Czech Republic; and Britain's *Under You Pronto Seras (A Day Will Soon Be)* by Robert Olivera of Argentina; *Le Cri Du Coeur (The Heart)* by Idris Elba drao of Burkina Faso; *Wansui (Long Live)* by Tsai Ming-Liang; *Davan* and *Tres Hermanos (Three Brothers)* by Teresa de Portugal. Last, two films for the top 12: *Short Cut* by American Robert Altman and *Couleurs Bleu (Three Colors, Blue)* by Poland's Krzysztof Kieslowski.

star fire kills reindeer inland

SINKI, Finland (AP) — Finnish soldiers accidentally fired a round of mortar shells at a reindeer heard that had run onto an army target in Lapland, killing 41 of the animals. "The animals were from behind a hill" after soldiers fired 120mm mortar shells at the air, said Defence spokesman Reima Rintaniemi. "There was no way the soldiers could do to avoid the accident." The incident occurred near Kemijarvi, some 900 kilometres north of Helsinki. Shooting accidents involving reindeer happen occasionally in Lapland. Reindeer herders allow their herds to range during the winter in search of food.

m over £50 'award' for sex victim

ON (AFP) — A judge ordered by awarding a 16-year-old victim of a sexual assault £50 (\$75) compensation and freeing her from probation. The Prosecution Service had referred the case to attorney general for consideration of the sentence. Terence Whitley, 43, was placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay the cash to his victim at the rate of £5 a week, after being found guilty of gross indecency and indecent assault. The "reward" would be a "reward" for going through the process of giving evidence. Judge Whitley told the court in England, he would tell Mr. Hadenham to consider stepping up economic and military pressure on the Serbs.

Mr. Papoulias, whose country has shown itself sympathetic to the Serbs, said that in the time that remained before the meeting, the warring sides could still make some corrections. "There is still a chance for us," Mr. Papoulias said after talks in Belgrade Thursday with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. "Bosnia's Muslims and

police in dark jackets blocked the red-and-white bus on a deserted part of the airport tarmac and negotiated into the early hours of Friday with the gunmen, who demanded \$15 million and two getaway helicopters.

Three children aged 13 to 15 died when one of the gunmen detonated a grenade in the cabin of the helicopter as it was preparing to take off from the airport at the spa town of Mineralnye Vody, the Emergency Ministry said.

A fourth hostage, a woman, died on the way to hospital. One of the four masked gunmen, all in their 20s and from the nearby rebel region of Chechnya, died in hospital from his wounds, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

A total of 19 people were wounded in the blast just after three a.m. local time (2300 GMT).

Russian Television showed two hostages on stretchers on the tarmac with blood pouring from their faces, next to the charred wreck of the military helicopter. Two gunmen lay on the ground, hands tied behind their backs and faces covered in blood.

Two hijackers were taken injured to hospital in Pyatigorsk. Six members of the Omon special police force were also wounded, the Emergency Ministry said.

The hijackers, armed with four pistols and five hand grenades, commandeered a bus with 41 passengers on board as it made its way to Mineralnye Vody Thursday.

their release.

Previous hijackers were foiled after flying by helicopter from Mineralnye Vody to north Caucasus, a patchwork of restive ethnic regions which answer only reluctantly to Moscow.

The bloody end to Russia's latest hostage drama raised questions on the murky status of Chechnya and underscored the tiny republic's reputation for lawlessness.

In each of the four mass kidnappings in southern Russia since December, the kidnappers have either been identified as Chechens or have sought to flee with their ransom to the separatist Muslim republic in the Caucasus Mountains.

The four attacks had several other elements in common: Well-armed gunmen seized a busload of hostages, demanded millions of dollars in ransom and a get-away helicopter.

A spokesman for Russia's Counter-Intelligence Service acknowledged Friday that each of the past four hostage-taking incidents bore similarities and said they may have been masterminded by a single group.

The hijack was the fourth of its kind in eight months in this lawless fringes of Russia's southern Caucasus region. The three previous attempts, aimed at extorting sums of around \$10 million, all ended in failure.

The bus was seized just one day after the trial began of four people arrested in connection with an earlier hijack.

TASS said the gunmen behind the latest incident had relatives among the kidnappers on trial and suggested they were trying to secure

directed at both the kidnappers' get-away helicopter and any pursuing Russian forces.

A Russian Interior Ministry spokesman said it was this warning from Chechnya that led to the decision to storm the kidnappers' helicopter, Interfax News Agency reported.

In previous hijacks, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has ordered his forces to cooperate with Russia.

Chechnya declared itself independent from Moscow in 1991. Russia does not accept the secession but has refrained from trying to impose its will by force.

In the December kidnapping, the attackers were not Chechens. But during a four-day attempt to escape Russia authorities, the kidnappers tossed some \$2 million of their ransom money from their helicopter out over Chechnya before being captured.

Most of that money was never recovered.

The Caucasus is one of the most troubled areas in the former Soviet Union. In recent years bloody conflicts have erupted in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Chechnya.

Prior to the founding of the Soviet Union, and since its breakup, Chechnya has had a reputation for lawlessness and banditry. Some of the most powerful international mafia gangs to emerge from the former Soviet Union were said to be run by Chechens.

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Returning refugees from Zaire bring cholera to Rwanda



A Rwandan refugee child sits abandoned in a refugee camp near the east Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)

Most of the 1.7 million refugees in eastern Zaire are members of Rwanda's Hutu majority and many fear reprisals from the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) if they return.

More than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis and Hutu government opponents, were slaughtered in Rwanda since April by troops of the defeated Hutu government and militiamen.

The first food convoy to reach Goma by road through Rwanda since the RPF declared victory two weeks ago arrived Friday.

In Geneva, the UNHCR appealed to world governments for the urgent despatch of water tankers to Goma. Spokeswoman Sylvana Foia told a news briefing that despite pleas first issued on July 15, no tankers had yet arrived in aid shipments and relief workers still had only eight of them to deliver pure water to over a million people.

France began withdrawing its soldiers from Rwanda Saturday. "We prefer to call them separated children rather than orphans that one gives up on. We hope many will be returned to their families," Chris Roys of Save the Children's Fund said Thursday.

A senior official in Paris said 300 specialised combat troops left the French-protected "safe haven" in southwestern Rwanda and were flying home after being replaced by African soldiers from Ghana, Chad, Niger and Congo.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard said in Washington there would be a complete pullout of the 2,500 French troops by Aug. 21, when their U.N. mandate expires.

A senior U.N. official said

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1994 5

Berlusconi to cut business links after row

ROME (AFP) — Embattled Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced Friday he would cut his remaining links with his multi-billion business empire in a "very radical solution" to counter mounting criticism of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Berlusconi told a news conference that his Fininvest group would be run by a manager appointed and controlled by a "high supervisory committee," and that he would "freeze his interests" in Fininvest.

He outlined measures to put a wall between himself and his businesses, saying he was cutting his "last link" with Fininvest in a bid to silence accusations that his business and political interests were too tightly entwined.

The prime minister said he would "freeze his interests" in Fininvest and separate himself from them, and a bill was being prepared to go before the government and then parliament at the end of Aug. or beginning of September.

The committee would have to "carry out a control of assets" within the group and "approve" a proposal by the owner of a "manager" who would act as a supervisor with full powers.

The drafting of the bill had been handed to three independent people who had been appointed in April to study the problem and the text was now being prepared.

The prime minister has come under increasing criticism for an apparent conflict of interest between his role as head of the government, in which several former Fininvest executives are involved, and his background as the creator of the giant Fininvest media and retailing group.

The crisis had caused alarm in financial markets about stability in Italy and the capacity of the government to deal with budget and public deficits.

The life has fallen to record low point since 1945 and the stock market has been weak, in reaction to the controversy surrounding Mr. Berlusconi's brother and the premier's humiliating climb down over the arrest warrant.

The manager would not become directly involved in the operational management of the companies, but would control their structural arrangements and would be able to attend board meetings.

The warrant for Mr. Paolo Berlusconi was issued Tuesday.

day following accusations by Fininvest's tax director, Salvatore Sciascia, who authorised bribery payments to financial police of \$30 million lire (\$210,000) during tax audits.

The prime minister described his 44-year-old brother as a "gentleman, one hundred per cent."

Referring to a two-day delay between the issue of an arrest warrant and his brother's surrender, he said: "Paolo was not running away ... He was available to the law... He was waiting for a call from magistrates through his lawyers."

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"We have permission to burn bodies but no one wants to be the first one to do it," he told. Hundreds of corpses are littered around Kibumba camp, bloated and rotting in the sun.

However, Mr. Di Pietro said he would first have to interview Mr. Berlusconi before deciding whether he should be held pending further inquiries, judicial officials said.

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he hoped the French would stay in Rwanda longer because the United Nations was still having major difficulties putting together its force of 5,500 soldiers.

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In Geneva, the UNHCR appealed to world governments for the urgent despatch of water tankers to Goma. Spokeswoman Sylvana Foia told a news briefing that despite pleas first issued on July 15, no tankers had yet arrived in aid shipments and relief workers still had only eight of them to deliver pure water to over a million people.

France began withdrawing its soldiers from Rwanda Saturday. "We prefer to call them separated children rather than orphans that one gives up on. We hope many will be returned to their families," Chris Roys of Save the Children's Fund said Thursday.

A senior official in Paris said 300 specialised combat troops left the French-protected "safe haven" in southwestern Rwanda and were flying home after being replaced by African soldiers from Ghana, Chad, Niger and Congo.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard said in Washington there would be a complete pullout of the 2,500 French troops by Aug. 21, when their U.N. mandate expires.

A senior U.N. official said

Greek minister meets Bosnia Serbs on peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias held talks with Bosnian Serb leaders Friday in an attempt to keep the latest international peace plan alive after the Serbs' effective rejection of the proposal.

His visit to the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale, just outside Sarajevo, came as pressure mounted for international peacekeeping action against the Serbs following their refusal to endorse the plan.

"There is no alternative to a peaceful process," he said during a visit to Ukraine. "I think the world community must be ready to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims if the Serbs persisted in their refusal to accept the peace plan."

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said the contact group would see the Serb response to the peace plan as a "no."

Foreign ministers of the "contact group" which drew up the peace plan — France, Britain, Germany, Russia and the United States — met in Geneva Saturday to consider stepping up economic and military pressure on the Serbs.

The Bosnian Serb assembly said it wanted adjustments to the proposed territorial division of Bosnia and clarification of the future status of Sarajevo, the capital.

It repeated demands for access to the Adriatic Sea and for a "right to self-determination, including the possibility for uniting with other neighbouring states" — a reference to Serbia.

"There is still a chance for us," Mr. Papoulias said after talks in Belgrade Thursday with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Bosnia's Muslims and

added Mr. Kinkel, who will be among the five foreign ministers to gather in Geneva Saturday.

Meanwhile Bosnian Serbs have seized a number of classified NATO aerial photographs from a United Nations convoy detained at a checkpoint, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

But she denied the pictures revealed any future U.N. plans. The photographs of the Gorazde area were taken from a convoy sent to supply.

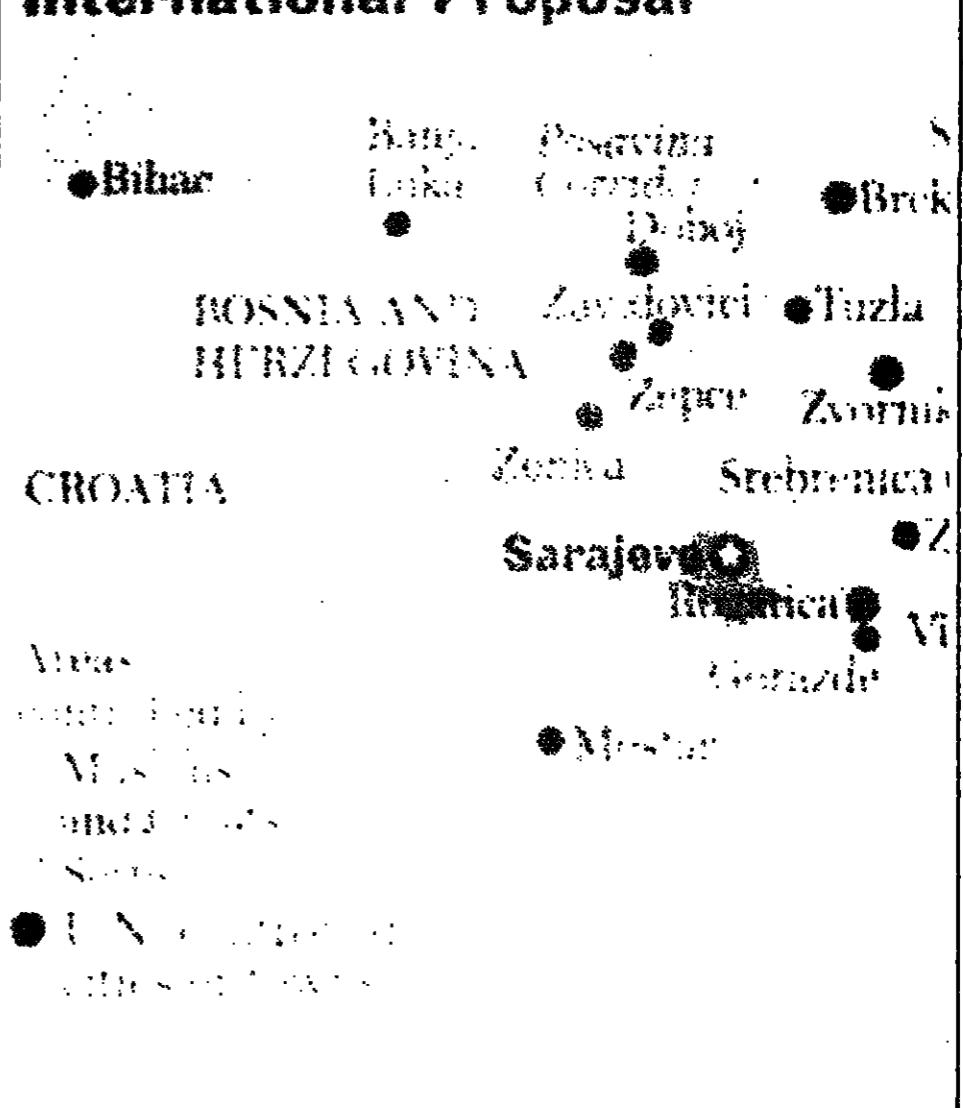
The Serbs stopped the truck at Rogatica, east of Sarajevo and took the photographs along with 2,600 litres (575 gallons) of fuel they said was not listed on the convoy manifest.

"A number of aerial photographs of Gorazde taken between March and May to provide information on our area of operations were taken by Bosnian Serb authorities from a U.N. convoy stopped in Rogatica yesterday," U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said.

Serbs have in the past taken sensitive radio equipment from U.N. convoys, but the seizure of the photographs was likely to be seen as a major embarrassment for the U.N.

Ms. Grimes said: "They are operational photographs. There is nothing on them with regard to our intent," she said.

International Proposal



Jordan Times

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Need for democracy reassured

WITH THE signing of the Washington Declaration last Monday, the Kingdom has entered a new era which will bring about significant changes on the political, economic and social scenes. Along with the changes will come new challenges, which would make the pooling of all the resources of the state and the people an essential requirement to maintain the stability, prosperity and security of the country.

In the coming period, Jordan will have to face the enormous task of making peace with Israel and moving forward in its democratic march. Some are arguing that those twin goals will be hard to attain due to the difficult decisions that the building of peace with Israel will entail. This reasoning is flawed. The fusion of the two objectives will most probably lead to the birth of a new Jordan, at peace with itself and with its neighbours.

As far as the democratisation process is concerned, there is a consensus among all Jordanians that the only way is forward. His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly stressed its irreversibility. So have the majority of political parties, which have proved over the years that even when they differ with the government, the law of the land is the criteria against which differences are addressed.

The differences between the government and the opposition on the peace process is yet another reason why both should have as their priority the consolidation of democracy.

The government is pursuing peace with Israel because it believes peace will serve the interest of Jordan and its people. Opponents of the peace process oppose it because they believe the negotiations with Israel will undermine those interests. The stands of both the pro and anti-peace talks camps are rooted in their desire to serve the Kingdom and protect its interests. No one can question the fact that a democratic environment where debate is carried out in a healthy, responsible and peaceful manner is the best environment for the progress and advancement of Jordan. Hence the differences over the peace process should offer yet another reason for strengthening the democratic process and its institutions.

The opponents of the peace process have thus far shown enough pragmatism in voicing their stand on the peace talks with Israel. Their right to their political views is one ensured and protected by the Constitution. But their means for expressing these views should continue to be constitutional and rational. Resorting to rhetoric and fiery statements is an easy recourse that can raise emotions. But it cannot serve any cause.

Strengthening the democratic institutions in Jordan will allow for a healthy political environment under which the people will be able to listen to both points of view on the peace process. That process is still at its early stages. In the months if not years to come, the advantages or disadvantages of peace will start to surface. If the democratic institutions are properly functioning then, all will be able to pass on their views to the people on what peace has brought about. But if these institutions had by then fallen victim to irresponsible behaviour, only one story will be told. Consequently, Jordan and its people will be the losers, something which neither the opponents nor the proponents of the peace process want.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the ceremonies in Washington have come to an end with the signing of the declaration that paves the ground for peace, all eyes will be turned towards Israel to see if it will be committed to implementing the declaration's provisions, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The world has listened to the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, delivering a passionate address expressing the Jewish state's orientation towards peace with the Arabs and the people of the Middle East are now watching to see if Mr. Rabin will keep his word and embark on practical steps towards peace, according to the paper. Mr. Rabin has promised to speed up the process of demarcating borders with Jordan and giving impetus to the peace process by yielding to the Kingdom's demands of its rightful share in the water resources; and therefore one can hardly wait to see facts materialising on the ground, said the paper. Jordanians, said the daily, cannot feel they have peace before they see their lost territories restored and water resources given back to them, and they also cannot feel they have peace with Israel before outstanding issues on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks have been all settled fairly and justly. The ball, added the paper, is now in the Israeli court and every one is waiting to see whether Israel is truly oriented towards peace or that the Washington Declaration was merely a ploy to gain more time and ensure normalisation without ending occupation.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shabab daily, Ahmad Dabbas, said that the summer holidays of the past and present still witness innocent people falling victim to stray bullets fired by those rejoicing over weddings or success in college and school. He said that despite the ban on firing on these occasions, one continues to hear blasts of automatic rifles sounding in urban and rural regions of Jordan. Firing at random is a show of total disregard to law and order and reflects backward-mindedness that should be promptly halted by the concerned authorities, said the writer. Continued violation of the law manifests the fact that some people cannot be deterred by mere advice or even warnings, and, therefore, drastic measures ought to be taken to ensure law and order and protect the lives of innocent people, the writer added.

Jordanian Perspective

Loud voices that betray obliquity

THE LOUD VOICE of Palestinian protestations over Israel's acknowledgement of Jordan's historic role vis-a-vis the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem is at best short-sighted since it does not take into consideration the fact it was the first explicit recognition by the Jewish state of the Arab and Muslim rights in the Holy City. At the same time it also exposes certain realities in the relationship between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the underlying multifaceted policy the PLO has been applying when it comes to Jordan.

The move by the Palestinian leadership to ban the circulation of Al Nahar, described as a "pro-Jordanian" daily based in Jerusalem, in the Gaza Strip and Jericho — the autonomous areas — is nothing but a clear pointer of the state of mind of the PLO leaders, who appear to attach little, if any, importance to the Jordanian role in the Arab-Israeli Peace process launched 33 months ago.

The overriding factor in any debate over the impact of the reference to Jerusalem in the Israeli-Jordanian declaration is the fact that His Majesty King Hussein has managed to lay a concrete foundation stone towards securing the Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

Lest it has escaped the PLO's attention, the Jordanian success comes amid intensified moves by Jewish groups to consolidate the Israeli grip on Jerusalem. The latest of such moves came with the assertion by Ahariyat Cohenan, an "ultranationalist" Zionist group, that it was planning to have one million Jews, immigrants and otherwise, living in and around Jerusalem in the next few years. The assertion has to be seen coupled with the systematic campaign by Israelis, led by their major of Jerusalem, to obliterate as many signs of the Palestinian Arab/Muslim identity of Jerusalem.

For all technical and practical purposes, all indications, public and private, up until the Washington Declaration signed last Monday were that there was no PLO contest over the Hashemite role in Jerusalem and that the organisation, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, respected the Hashemite family's right to assert and regain, in physical terms, its authority over the Islamic shrines in the Holy City.

The PLO's pointed side-stepping of the Jordanian statement that Israel's agreement in the Washington Declaration that the Jewish state would give high priority to the historic Jordanian role in the context of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem was not a political issue is most telling. The PLO stand gives rise to the sinister implications that the PLO never had any intention of respecting the Hashemites' right and all the talk we heard about Jordan-PLO understanding were onesided from Amman.

In essence, what it means to us in Jordan is that the PLO wanted the Kingdom to wait in the wings until the Palestinians conclude their "final status" negotiations with Israel and step in whenever the PLO wanted the Kingdom to be used as a leverage or pressure point against Israel. And, under this line of thinking, Jordan had better accept whatever the Palestinians felt like when it comes to Jordanian interests.

Well, Jordan has had enough of that kind of a situation, which it put up with for a long time. It was time for Jordan to assert its role and pursue efforts to protect its own national interests without prejudice to the rights of not only its Arab partners in the peace process but also of the Arab World. That is what Jordan did by endorsing the Washington Declaration and ending the state of war with Israel, paving the way for serious and concerted negotiations on the core issues of conflict with the Jewish state.

If anything, beyond Jordan's repeated calls for close coordination with the PLO, the Kingdom also found the negotiating behaviour of the PLO left a lot to desired. There was little doubt that if the fate of Jerusalem was to be left to the PLO to be negotiated with Israel, the outcome would not have exactly been of the kind that the Arabs and Muslims would have desired.

I disagree with the term "row" while the media describe the Jordan-PLO exchanges over Jerusalem. The Jordanian government has only been issuing conciliatory statements, clearly pointing out that the Hashemite role in the Holy City has no political ramifications and determining the final status of Jerusalem in political terms was left to the PLO and Israel under their Sept. 13 declaration of principles.

To say the least, the situation that arose after the issuance of the Washington Declaration is the direct result of the lack of coordination between the two sides, and Jordan cannot be blamed for it in the least. After all, it was not Jordan which went behind the back of its partner and struck a secret deal with Israel in Oslo, it was not Jordan which kept its partner in the dark of its intentions and the stages of progress it made in negotiations with Israel despite the fact that the results of those negotiations had a direct bearing on the partner.

Had there been close coordination between the PLO and Jordan, there would not have been any "confusion" or "misunderstanding" over what each side was seeking in their respective tracks of negotiations with Israel. If anything, the whole situation now looks like the PLO always pursuing its own interests without informing Jordan on issues that concerned Jordan but insisting that when it is Jordan's turn the Kingdom should have protected "Palestinian interests" without clearly knowing what those interests were.

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It was ironical that Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the political department of the PLO, found it fit two weeks ago to say that he was not happy with the level of coordination with Jordan. Whose fault was it, may we ask? Was there any reluctance on the part of Jordan to extend all help within its powers to the PLO to help boost the Palestinian negotiating position as well as the implementation of the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement? Did Jordan interfere with the Israeli-PLO negotiations? Was it Jordan which was stalling over economic cooperation without giving clear indications of the Palestinian intentions in the occupied territories when the political and monetary stability of the Kingdom itself depended to a large measure on developments on the Palestinian scene? If anything, it was the foresight and intense efforts of the Jordanian policymakers and executive authorities that raised the Kingdom to a secure position in terms of financial and monetary stability through carefully calculated moves in the regional and international scenes.

As to the specific issue of Jerusalem itself, Jordan never made any secret of its firm stand that it would not accept anyone's sovereignty except God's in the Holy City. There was no ambiguity about the stand and those who sought to attack political ramifications to that position were either short-sighted or had ulterior motives.

As far as we could remember, there was no peace process under way in 1988 when Jordan severed legal and administrative links with the West Bank to facilitate the Palestinian quest for liberation but kept the Hashemite family's status as the guardian and custodian of the Islamic shrines in the Holy City through the Waqf. More precisely, the Jordanian link to the shrines is above all political considerations and it was always the Jordanian stand that the Kingdom would not surrender the Hashemite role in the holy sites no matter what. Anyone who thought it was a political ploy or advance negotiating strategy is clearly mistaken or misled.

It was in fact this hindsight of His Majesty King Hussein that provided its wisdom in the Washington Declaration. Those who may have political problems with it had better reassess and reevaluate the Jordanian moves in their entirety rather than isolating events and statements to find fault with the Kingdom and arguing that Jordan is undermining the Palestinian negotiating stand in the "final status" negotiations. By the way, it is also true that asif when the Palestinians manage to succeed in their quest to free Jerusalem from Israeli occupation, then they will have to respect the non-political, religious role of the Hashemites in the Islamic holy shrines there. But that does not mean any Jordanian wish that the Palestinians fail in their search. On the contrary, Jordan will be the first to rejoice in the Palestinians' success.

LETTERS

Sweden's role acknowledged

To the Editor:

AT A time when Jordan is passing to a new era of forgiveness, tolerance and peaceful coexistence with all its neighbours, at a time when the whole world is witnessing the historic courageous step taken by His Majesty King Hussein which comes after assiduous endeavours to provide the Jordanian people with the best possible while emphasising the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, I like many Jordanians, would like to share in extending our appreciation and gratitude to all those who contributed and still do to bringing peace with its accompanying progress to this part of the world.

Yet, it is indeed a sad moment when tributes are made to many, excluding those who silently worked both at governmental and non-governmental levels, through direct and indirect mediation, to eliminate the sufferings of the people of this region.

I am talking about a society which achieved distinguished progress and development after refusing to adopt offensive wars as a means to achieve their national goals and opted for peaceful cooperation and coexistence; a society eager to let others enjoy the advantages of peaceful cooperation and which continue working hard to spread international social and economic justice by allocating approximately one per cent of its GNP for official international development assistance. This same nation learned to contain crises in its vicinity in a diplomatic, peaceful manner after long history of conflicts and hostilities with its neighbours and developed a culture based on cooperation and compromise, giving birth not only to personalities who are to be considered altruistic peace seekers but to a whole people who endlessly tries to lessen the agonies of war victims, including those of the Palestinian people.

A nation whose different governments brought prosperity to their people by being objective free from illusions and which also distinguish the wise leadership of this country, Jordan, and direct its foreign policies.

As a student researcher on Sweden and as someone who witnessed closely for more than one decade the achievements of a people working laboriously behind the curtains on international arena, I would like to use this democratic forum to refer to the pioneers of peace brokers in the Middle East: to Count Folke Bernadotte, Dag Hammarskjold, Gunnar Jarring, Jan Eliasson and to those Swedes like Sten Andersson and Mathias Mossberg who touched themselves the wounds of the people in Jordan and in the occupied territories and were determined to see that violence is replaced by political dialogue among the warring parties.

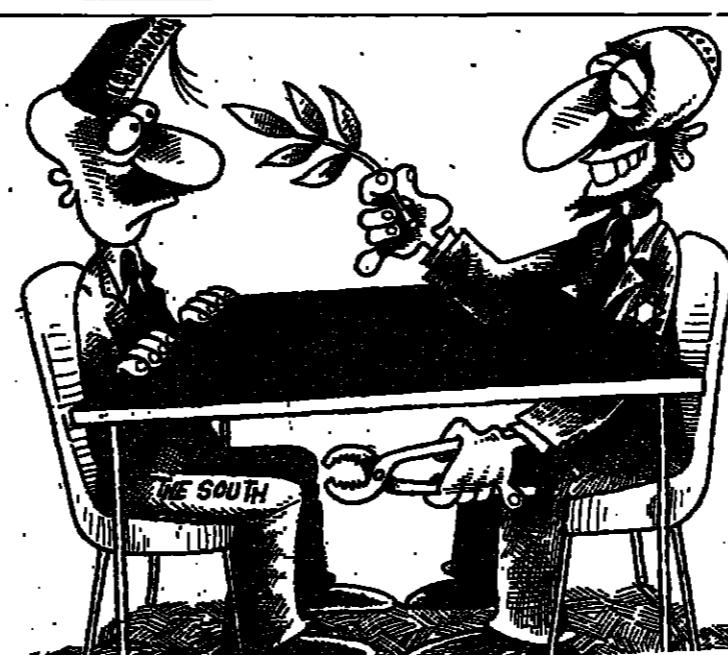
These Swedish efforts culminated in the Stockholm document which was adopted by President Yasser Arafat on Dec. 8, 1988.

Like many Jordanians, and while we accept our past enemies as our future friends, we cannot but remember with great consideration our past present and future friends, the Swedes, regardless of whether their assistance to this area was mainly addressed to our brethren the Palestinians or whether our economic problems and resumption of democracy received enough understanding and attention or not.

If the Swedes prefer to keep low profile and are shy to refer to their contributions, we as Jordanians, feel more obliged to extend our warm thanks to a people who by being committed to human rights and international law in theory and in practice and through their taking part productively in international affairs, especially in the Third World are entitled to be classified as the model great nation of the late twentieth century. We here, as people of Jordan, with our country's modest natural resources promise, as usual to reciprocate the kindness and the assistance of Sweden with the customary Jordanian generous reception of all Swedes visiting Jordan, whether businessmen, people of culture, tourists or officials.

Madline Manuel Mezzahogian,
plan, Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Washington declaration first step on the long road towards peace

By Elia Nasrallah

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the signing of the Washington Declaration were addressed by the local press in the past week. Domestic affairs were also dealt with by some columnists.

A Columnist in Al Ra'i described the handshake between the King and Mr. Rabin as the first step on the one-thousand-mile road to peace. However, said Ahmad Al Misheh, there is a big difference between what came in writing and the establishment of peace on the ground and between expression of hopes and sentiments and implementation of U.N. resolutions on the part of Israel.

In the view of Mahmoud Rimawi, another columnist in Al Ra'i, the Washington meeting would assume real historic proportions only if Israel proves committed to implementing U.N. resolutions and give back Jordan its legitimate rights. The writer said that the meeting would also be of significance to the future generations if it results in better economic situation in Jordan, return of Jordanian-American traditional relations and an end to all foreign pressure on the Kingdom.

Saying that the Washington Declaration is but a mere start for regaining Jordan's lost rights, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the road to peace remains far away. Talks with the Israelis will prove difficult for the negotiators from Jordan and the other Arab parties, and therefore, said the writer, concerted efforts

would speed up progress on the other tracks.

A Dustour daily said that the Washington Declaration has placed the Middle East region at the threshold of a new era. In view of the new emerging situation and in the light of the new facts, we should consider that the state of war with Israel has ended and adopt a new line of dealing with the given facts, said the paper. The paper said that the ball is back in the Israeli court and it is up to Israel now to end its aggressive attitude, military arrogance and desire to impose hegemony over the Arab World.

Awni Sadeq, a columnist in Al Aswad, said that peace in the Middle East will benefit Israel in the first place because it would secure for normalization of relations with the Arab states and the Arab World's open recognition.

The writer said that through peace Israel would ensure gains it had sought in the past half century and therefore Israel had to pay for peace and should be made to return Arab rights in lands and water. But, unfortunately, he said, the Arabs have so far been giving concessions to Israel and, should this trend continue, the aspired peace would remain out of reach.

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Rally in world commodity prices not over yet — analysts

LONDON (R) — World commodity prices, spurred to their highest levels for years by tighter supplies and a massive influx of "hot" money from investment funds, show few signs of running out of steam," analysts say.

"The run-up in prices still has some way to go, especially in the more demand-related commodities like metals," said one senior London-based commodities analyst.

Growing economic recovery in Western Europe and

Japan should keep commodity prices bubbling along, he said, adding that inflationary pressures would stay muted this year.

Among the star performers, coffee is near \$8½ highs after two frosts ravaged plantations in Brazil, the world's biggest producer. Coffee traded on the London Commodities Exchange has gained 32¢ per cent from last year's lows.

On the London Metals Exchange, aluminium has risen 41 per cent, copper by 50 per

cent, platinum by 23 per cent and tin by 23 per cent from their 1993 trough.

A host of other commodities, from palm oil to Australian wool, have notched up similar steep gains, though analysts noted they had all risen from historically depressed levels caused by over-production and large stockpiles.

Some commodities like coffee have already peaked, while others, including cocoa, lead and aluminium, should see further rises, said

Lawrence Eagles, analyst at brokers GNI Ltd.

One of the few dull spots is world grain prices which have fallen on more favourable weather for developing crops in North America.

Analysts said world economic growth was set to accelerate but added that many commodity prices, notably some base metals, had already risen in anticipation of the upturn and so further big gains could be discounted.

Some commodities may start falling if world growth

fails to match expectations or if there is no big dent in stockpiles, GNI's Eagles said.

The key indicator for investors wary a resurgence in inflation is the price of Brent Crude oil, analysts said.

Buoyant demand in the United States, the world's largest oil consumer, and OPEC quota adherence has boosted oil prices to their highest levels in more than a year. However, analysts said they were relaxed about inflation prospects while Brent

Crude fetched less than \$22 a barrel. On Friday it was trading at just over \$18 a barrel.

Commodities represent only 10 per cent in less of total production costs, one noted. Wage rates, rather than raw material prices, are the critical factor where inflation is concerned, said Alec Gordon, the editor of the Economic Intelligence Unit's Commodity Forecasts.

(Continued on page 9)

Hong Kong sees higher exports to post-war Mideast

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Hong Kong expects peace in the Middle East to open new outlets for its exports as it presses ahead with a worldwide drive to promote its products, a Hong Kong official has said.

"Hong Kong can expect much higher growth in its exports to the Middle East," said Ramzi Raad, Middle East consultant for the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

"This will result not just

from the peace process, which is ending decades of conflict in the region, but from a baby boom generation coming of age and a revolution in mass media and marketing," he pointed out.

Hong Kong's annual promotion drives, covering exhibitions and visits by trade delegations, have sharply boosted its exports to the Middle East, one of the biggest consumer markets in the world. The exports have nearly doubled every four to

five years to reach around \$2.2 billion in 1993.

The bulk of Hong Kong's exports, covering watches and clocks, textile and garments, household appliances and electrical items, go to the oil-rich Gulf countries, which in turn supply the former British colony with crude oil.

The rise in exports has made Hong Kong among the 10 biggest commercial partners of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states —

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE. Japan is their top partner, with their two-way trade standing at nearly \$35 billion in 1993.

"Three quarters of the population in Saudi Arabia is aged under 30 and the entire Middle East has one of the largest proportions of young consumers in the world, ensuring continuing growth of consumer demand," Mr. Raad said.

"More regional trade in goods and services among the countries of the Gulf was also on the way, with the progress of the GCC. Growing affinities in the region has also created a sizeable market of consumers wanting to buy a wide variety of high quality merchandise."

Gulf states joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The group would be renamed the World Trade Organisation following its recent free trade accord, to go into effect early next year.

"Hong Kong's exports to the Middle East region are doubling every four to five years but a much higher growth will be achieved under the new economic and political conditions," Mr. Raad said.

Dollar seen in a stage of correction from a heavily over-sold condition

This report, covering the period from Thursday, July 21, 1994 until Wednesday July 27, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound from record lows set two weeks ago is not a sign of renewed dollar strength, in our view, but rather a correction from a heavily over-sold condition. Dollar-praising comments from the Fed and administration officials fueled a short-covering rally that was largely the source of recent dollar strength. Without a fundamental change in monetary policy, which we do not expect, the dollar is likely to return to following a downward path against both the mark and the yen.

Indeed, the dollar is already showing signs of renewed weakness against the yen as the U.S. enters into another round of trade negotiations with Japan over government procurement practices. So far, the talks remain at an impasse. We maintain our six-and twelve-month forecast of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.50. We caution, however, that over the next six months the dollar could dip below these levels.

Technical view: Aided by particular strength against the European currencies, the U.S. dollar rallied nicely last week, resulting in a 2.1 per cent gain for the dollar index. This was the best performance since last December. Short term momentum is still constructive, and although medium term momentum remains weak, there are signs of stabilisation.

We are inclined to think that a good bottom is not yet in place and that, once this rally runs its course, a test of the recent lows is likely. There appears to be strong support in the 84.00-85.00 area, with most of the bias above 84.80. A rally through next resistance through 90.90 would set the stage for a continuation to 92.83-93.58.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound against the yen was curtailed by signs that yet another round of trade negotiations between the U.S. and Japan will result in an impasse. Recent discussions on Japan's government procurement practices between Sadayuki Hayashi, Japan's deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky made little headway. The U.S. administration has warned that a decision will be made by July 31 as to whether or not Japan has unfair government procurement practices in the areas of telecommunications and medical equipment. If it is determined that Japan does have unfair practices, then the U.S. and Japan will enter a 60-day negotiation period. If a resolution is not found by the end of the 60 days, then the U.S. government will impose sanctions

on goods from the identified categories. That would make Sept. 30 the deadline for any retaliation.

The impact of any such retaliation would be little more than a warning shot as U.S. purchases of Japanese telecommunications and medical equipment are not large. Still, the implications of trade sanctions would not be viewed lightly. The U.S. current account is expected to post a \$130 billion deficit this year matched by an expected Japanese current account surplus of roughly the same magnitude. This differential, accompanied by weak capital outflows from Japan, should pressure the dollar to fall towards our forecast level of JPY/USD 95 in six and twelve months time.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.0 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 22. Sentiment remains only neutral, but continues to deteriorate. Short term momentum still has a downward bias, but medium term oscillators have begun to strengthen again. Nonetheless, short term divergences have set the stage for a correction back to at least the 100.40-101.40 JY/U.S.\$ area, and perhaps beyond; benchmark support remains at 106-112. Resistance exists near 97.20, then below 93.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound against the mark beginning two weeks ago has been attributed to a recovery from a very oversold condition. The mark failed to break through the all important DM/USD 1.60 level and has since renewed its downturn against the mark. Though real interest rates are currently in favour of the dollar and would be even more so should the Fed tighten by the Aug. 16 FOMC meeting, as we expect, our forecast is that the dollar will be trading lower in six-and twelve-months time, near the 1.50 level.

Factors depressing the dollar include (1) ongoing deterioration of the U.S. trade and current accounts accompanied by net outflows of long-term capital, (2) low confidence in the U.S. administration's economic and foreign policy,

(3) increasing support for Chancellor Kohl, and (4) more confidence in the Bundesbank than the Fed to continue having a hard line on inflation. That said, there is a fair chance that the dollar will continue to be erratic against the mark over the next few months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark lost 2.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought level in almost two years. Short term momentum continues to work off its recent overbought condition as it works its way lower. Even medium term oscillators are showing signs of rolling over. However, the uptrend line from the February lows remains intact. A test of the recent highs may still be needed before a true top is in

place. Further weakness through 1.60 DM/U.S.\$ could still allow for 1.616. Strong support exists at 1.48-1.52, but an eventual test of the 1992 high at 1.39 cannot be ruled out. Against the yen, the D-mark failed penetrate the top end of its May-July trading range and has pulled back below 62 on weak or deteriorating short and medium term momentum. Support is at 59.60. Above the trading range, resistance exists in the in the area of 65-66.

Pound sterling

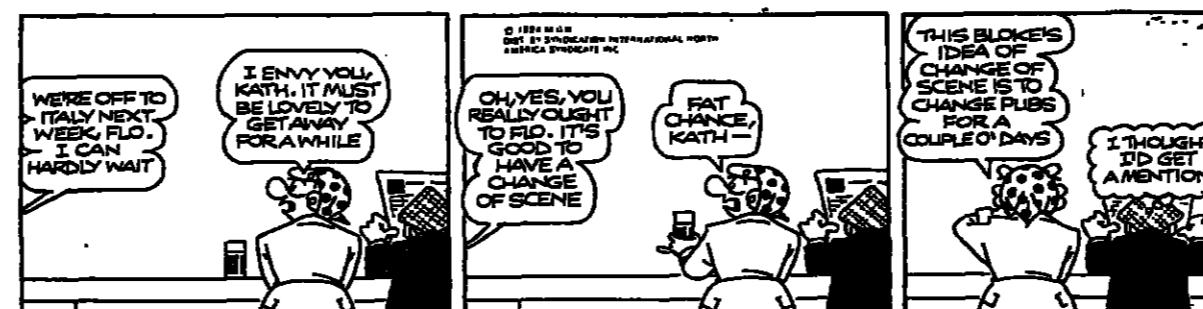
Fundamental view: The British pound plummeted, with the mark, against the dollar before finding support just above U.S.\$/GBP 1.52. Two weeks ago, the pound had followed the market to a new high of U.S.\$/GBP 1.5732. The pound traded first higher than lower against the mark and ended up back near DM/GBP 2.42. We expect that once the mark resumes its upward path against the dollar the pound will follow and be at U.S.\$/GBP 1.50 in six-and twelve-months time. Against the mark, the pound should benefit from an expected widening of the interest rate differential at the short end and trade higher at DM/GBP 2.45 in twelve-months time. Increasing signs of stronger growth in the U.K. indicate that short-term rates should begin to rise over the next six months while we still expect another 50 basis point cut in the German discount rate after the October election. Currently, the German repo rate is fixed at 4.85 per cent for the next four weeks. Long-term rates in the U.K., like Germany, should be little changed over the next year.

Technical view: The British pound fell 2.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 22. Even though the currency is still in the upper half of its long term trading range, it has managed to retrace almost 50 per cent of its rally from the April lows. Short term momentum is oversold, but remains weak. Even medium term oscillators are beginning to show signs of deterioration. With sentiment at its most overbought level since September 1992, and important resistance at 1.586 U.S.\$/L, we would respect the possibility that a test of the recent highs may only serve to create an important top.

First support exists near \$1.51; the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is second support. The DM cross moved back to near the 2.44 level in recent days, aided by short term momentum, which is working off an oversold condition. Medium term momentum is still generally weak, so a retest of at least the recent low may be needed before a good bottom is in place. A break below 2.380-2.393 would set the stage for a test of the 1993 low at 2.326. The breakdown point at 2.475 is resistance.



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



Russian investors clamour to unload MMM stock

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of harried Russian investors packed Moscow stock exchanges Friday, smashing windows as they jostled to unload shares in the troubled MMM investment fund.

MMM's share price slumped on the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange (RCRME) as more investors crowded outside the building.

"There are thousands and thousands of people here. They are breaking through the windows," said Alexander Deduchenko, head of floor trading.

When trade began, the bid price slid from 55,000 roubles (\$26.69) until, to a pause, one investor picked up 500 shares at just 5,000 roubles (\$2.43) each.

The price rose briefly to 8,000 roubles (\$3.88), then fell.

Exchange officials said later MMM was offering to buy the shares at a mere 950 roubles (\$0.46), compared with its pledges earlier this week to buy them back at 115,000 roubles (\$55.8). But an MMM spokeswoman said she had no such information.

Outside MMM headquarters, places near the beginning of the queue to sell the shares at the company's quoted rate were changing hands for millions of roubles (thousands of dollars), ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

MMM, one of the most prominent advertisers on Russian television, was due to resume buying back the shares Friday at offices where the securities had been issued.

But a company official said by telephone that the offices had not reopened.

Prices fell to 55,000 Wednesday after MMM suspended its scheme to buy back its shares at most locations, sparking the biggest

(Continued on page 9)

scandal yet to shake Russia's emerging financial markets.

At the central universal exchange, the stock traded at 9,000 roubles (\$4.37), head of trading Igor Il'yimych said, adding that the price could easily fall further.

The price crash followed a series of official public warnings about tax evasion and the company's financial health.

MMM has denied the firm is doing anything wrong. In full-page newspaper advertisements Friday, it continued to insist it had no problems and said its shares could be freely sold at offices in 48 Russian cities.

MMM's press service said in a commentary published in the Delovoy Mir business daily that the firm had met its obligations to its shareholders, who numbered 10 million, to the letter.

"There has not been a single case where MMM had not been able to buy back its shares," the company said.

It accused the government of creating problems where there were none and ended on a defiant note. "Whatever baseless ideas have been perpetrated, MMM will survive and will become stronger and more popular."

However, Ilya Shikora, RCRME's exchange department, said: "This is the end of MMM. No money will save them because they have lost the confidences of investors."

Finance ministry officials likened MMM to a classic pyramid scheme, in which cash from new share purchases is used to buy back old shares at ever-rising prices.

But bankers said the scandal was not affecting Russia's other financial markets.

Alexander Livshits, econo-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You have some fine creative ideas that need to be expressed at the moment. Now is the right time to share them with others and to lay these cards on the table and consult with experts.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

This is the ideal day to get some special skill perfected. Be careful about taking risks of any kind. Sidestep a troubemaker.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

TAURUS: Study the situation at home and know how you can best improve it. Evening is for entertaining friends and relatives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

This is a good day for improving routines and gaining cooperation of allies. Avoid one who has been interfering in your affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21)

Business & Finance

Investors
to unload
stock

scandal yet to shake Ramon's emerging financial empire. At the central bank, exchange, the stock market, 9,000 roubles (\$4.37), adding that the price has easily fall further.

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"There has not been a single case where MMM had or been able to buy back its shares," the company said.

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Alexander Livshits, com-

(Continued on page 9)

COPE

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1994

Carroll Righter Found a company of congenital fraud and loved ones.

BRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on how to improve your environment more active and gain personal aims which are a desire for.

CORPIO: (October 21 to November 21) Analyse your situation well and know where you are headed in financial & property matters. Be logical in method of operation.

AGITTARIUS: (November 20 to December 21) Plan how to better relations with all the future and take initial steps toward such. Spend your money.

APRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) Try to please your associates more and they will be wise toward you. Take a few steps to gain your aims and goals.

SCES: (February 20 to March 20) Figure out the best way to prove your surroundings come up now with a bring benefits you had expected.

QUARIES: (January 21 to February 19) Try to please your associates more and they will be wise toward you. Take a few steps to gain your aims and goals.

TAURUS: (March 21 to April 19) You have important decisions to handle now so do not procrastinate at this time. Take steps to improve your position.

SCORPIO: (December 21 to January 19) You have important decisions to handle now so do not procrastinate at this time. Take steps to improve your position.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on how to improve your environment more active and gain personal aims which are a desire for.

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Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Caixa Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Current	New York Close Date 27/7/94	Tokyo Close Date 28/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5321	1.5322
Deutsche Mark	1.5744	1.5733
Swiss Franc	1.3339	1.3325
French Franc	5.3820	5.3765**
Japanese Yen	98.43	98.44
European Currency Unit	1.2735	1.2742**

** USD Per JIC
* European Central Bank - ECB

Non-Euro International Banking			
Current	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.25	4.62	5.00
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.12	5.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75
Swiss Franc	4.06	4.12	4.18
French Franc	5.28	5.43	5.56
Japanese Yen	1.87	2.00	2.15
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.87	6.06

** USD Per JIC
* European Central Bank - ECB

Previous Month Dates 28/7/1994

Month	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	587.35	7.68	Silver	5.35	0.117

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Dates 28/7/1994

Current	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0593	1.0646
Deutsche Mark	0.4393	0.4415
Swiss Franc	0.5110	0.5206
French Franc	0.1828	0.1891
Japanese Yen	0.7012	0.7057
Dutch Guilder	0.3915	0.3935
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Hellen Lira*	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

* For 100

Other Currencies Dates 28/7/1994

Current	Bid	Offer
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.8760	1.8830
Lebanese Lira*	0.040935	0.041850
Saudi Riyal	0.1848	0.1858
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3740	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1818	0.1792
Egyptian Pound	0.2040	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8790	1.8330
UAR Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma*	0.2665	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3535	1.4515

* For 100

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 23/07/1994 - 27/07/1994

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME

TRADING VOLUME IN JD

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

CLOSING PRICE

PRICE

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 23/07/1994 - 27/07/1994

WEEKLY REPORT

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TRADING VOLUME IN JD

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

CLOSING PRICE

PRICE

AMMAN - Share prices re-

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GOODWILL GAMES

O'Brien misses world decathlon record

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Dan O'Brien fell short Friday in his bid to break his own world record in the decathlon at the Goodwill Games.

O'Brien, seven points behind record pace going into the final event, needed a time of 4 minutes, 40.92 seconds or less in the 1,500 metres to get the mark.

But he failed to produce the big effort he needed, finishing last in an official 5 minutes, 10.9 seconds.

O'Brien finished the 10-event competition with 8,715 points, 176 points off the record of 8,891 set in 1992 in Talence, France.

O'Brien began the 1,500 in a jog and quickly fell into last place. After that, he never picked up the pace and appeared content just to finish the race.

It was reminiscent of his performance six weeks ago at Knoxville, Tenn., where he was 14 points ahead of world record pace going into the 1,500, and ran a leisurely 5:16.42. He finished that competition with 8,707 points.

"My legs were tired after the first lap," O'Brien said. "I was just plain old tired. I am a sprinter, not a 1,500-metre runner."

O'Brien started with a bang in his record bid Friday, then tapered off.

He opened by winning the 110-metre hurdles in 13.81 seconds, smashing the American decathlon record for the event and matching his best ever in open competition. He then threw the discus 48.10 metres (157 feet, 10 inches), pole vaulted 4.90 metres (16-0, 3-4) and threw the javelin 62.20 metres (204-1).

Those performances, under steamy weather conditions at Petrovsky Stadium, gave O'Brien a total of 8,217 points, with one event remaining.

But the 1,500 metres has always been one of O'Brien's weaker events.

"If the day is like today, I will be tired when I get to the 1,500," O'Brien said Thursday after compiling 4,736 points in the opening five events, putting him 16 ahead of his pace of two years ago.

"I'm not a distance runner."

O'Brien's first-day total was the second-best legal score ever, behind the 4,738 he had at Knoxville. O'Brien accumulated 4,747 points in the 1991 U.S. Championships in New York, but the mark was negated because there was no wind gauge for the

100 metres.

With Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus skipping the Goodwill Games to prepare for next month's European Championships at Helsinki, Finland, O'Brien had no one to push him. After the first day, he had a 623-point lead over fellow American Steve Fritz.

"I feel good about Goodwill because I'm not competing against Hamalainen, so there's not an extreme amount of pressure to defend my title or go head-to-head against him often," O'Brien said.

"It gives me an opportunity to concentrate on the things I need to do instead of always looking out and saying, 'I've got to beat this guy or that guy to hold onto my No. 1 ranking.' There's no Eduard Hamalainen nipping at my heels."

"I like the fact that I'm competing against myself. I will try not to put much pressure on myself. I want to stay focused."

After a shaky start Thursday, O'Brien stayed relaxed by listening to music, including Queen's "We Are the Champions" and the rap group Heavy D. and the Boyz.

The tapes, along with unexpectedly strong performances by his competition in the high jump, pumped up O'Brien into a record effort.

He cleared 2.20 metres, matching the American decathlon record set by Jack Hoyt at Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1991. That brought O'Brien from 145 points off world record pace to 21 back after four events. He then went ahead by winning the 400 metres in 47.73 seconds.

Prior to that, he had won the 100 in 10.49, the long jump at 7.81 metres (25-7, 1-2) and the shot put at 15.70 (51-6, 1-4).

Thursday's other track winners included 1991 world champion Michael Johnson in the 200 at 30.10, equaling the year's fastest time and a games' records; world record-holder Colin Jackson of Britain in the 110-metre hurdles at 13.29; world and Olympic champion Heike Drechsler of Germany in the women's long jump at 7.12 metres (23-4, 1-2). C.J. Hunter in the men's shot put at 20.35 (66-9, 1-4), and 1993 world champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique in the women's 800 at 1:57.63, the year's fastest.

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Lebanon's Homemmen wins Al Jazireh Women's Basketball Championship title

By Roufan Nahas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Homemmen of Lebanon Thursday won the Al Jazireh International Women's Basketball Championship after winning all its matches during the week-long tournament.

Al Jala'a of Syria occupied the second place, followed in third place by Jordan's Al Jazireh.

In its last match played Thursday at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace, Homemmen beat Kefaloyros of Cyprus 64-27. Homemmen guaranteed taking the title even before its last match since it has beaten the two other top contenders, Al Jala'a and Al Jazireh. The Cypriot team ranked last among the five competing teams. The West Bank select team was fourth with one win over the Cypriot team.

Also Thursday, Al Jazireh lost to Al Jala'a 51-46 in the tournament's last match held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Youth Minister Fawaz Abul Ghannam deputised for Her Majesty at the match.

The match was decided for both teams which were struggling to win the second place.

Al Jazireh started scoring but lost the lead fast for the Al Jala'a which kept on

closing the defence area in front of Al Jazireh's Subair Maqousi and Rania Da-jani.

In spite of efforts by Al Jala'a to stop the determined Al Jazireh's attack, Maqousi tied the game 22-22.

Maqousi, who was injured and sent out on a stretcher, was replaced by Rana Hussein who gave Al Jazireh the lead to end the first half 26-24.

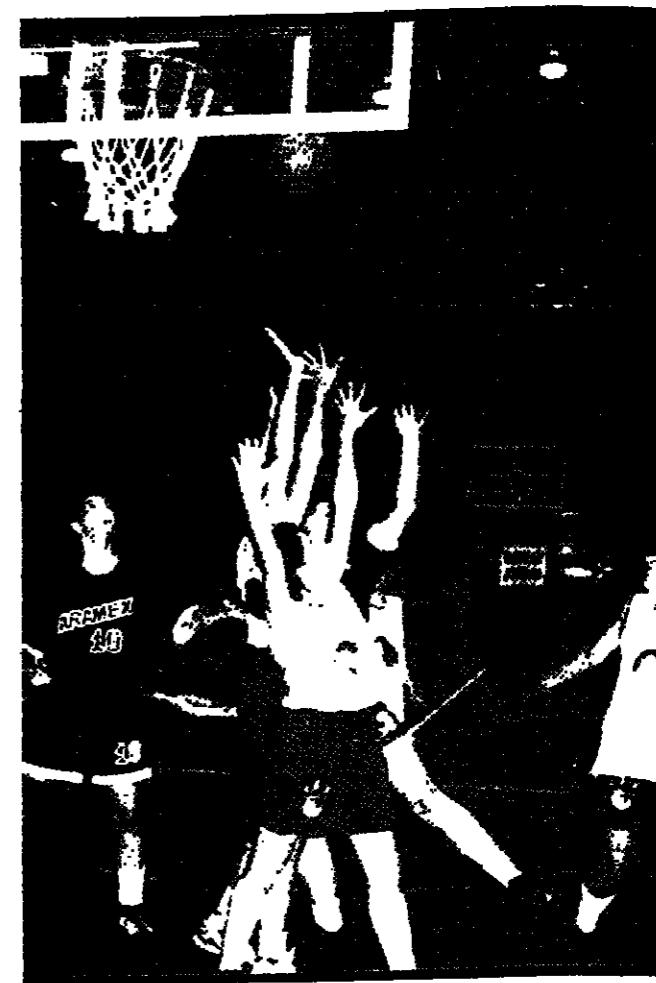
Al Jala'a came in a strong form in the second half, putting pressure on Al Jazireh's defence to end the match with a 51-46 win to reserve the second place.

Emma Begarian of Homemmen won the MVP (most valuable player) title in the tournament and Jumana Salti won the best defensive player title.

Carla Maghafir of Al Jala'a won the best offensive player title and Luci Thaljeh for best attitude and finally the sportsmanship title went to the Cypriot team.

Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Sabah said that this tournament, the first of its kind, will give our players the experience they need for future meetings with other teams."

Al Jazireh's Hussein added that the team needs more exposure to gain experience.



Al Jazireh's Rana Hussein (13) scores a two-pointer as three Al Jala'a players attempt to block her. Jumana Salti (10), who won the best defensive player title, looks on

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colak skips country before warrant

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish soccer star Tanju Colak flew to Macedonia less than 24 hours before an arrest warrant was issued following his 22-month sentence for car smuggling, it was reported Thursday.

An appeals court July 21 upheld Colak's sentence, which included a 772 million lira fine (\$23,000), and the Turkish daily Hurriyet reported that an arrest warrant was issued for Europe's leading scorer during the 1987-1988 season Thursday. Colak said he had left the country in order to represent Turkey one last time playing in a world all-stars game against Russia in St. Petersburg Aug. 7. "I'm not sure if I will return to Turkey," Colak wrote in a fax sent to the Turkish press, adding he was waiting to have his sentence lifted by president Suleyman Demirel. The sentence effectively ended Colak's soccer career because Turkish law forbids anyone convicted of certain crimes, including smuggling, from playing professionally again.

Shoe wars continue

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The shoe wars continue. Nike timed it right to open its first shop in St. Petersburg in the middle of the Goodwill Games — where rival Reebok is one of the major sponsors. Nike opened its shop Friday on Nevsky Prospect, the main street of the city and site of numerous commercial establishments.

With the latest opening, St. Petersburg residents have their choice of Nike, Reebok and Adidas shoes to choose from. A pair of good running shoes could cost them close to the equivalent of a month's salary for an average Russian. About \$100.

Games' flags disappear

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Thieves are pulling down Goodwill Games flags all over St. Petersburg. Police said more than half of the flags set up around the city have been stolen already, and the games are less than a week old. People are climbing roofs and flag poles to get at the flags.

Brazil's England day

LONDON (AFP) — World champions Brazil have agreed to take part in a six-nation football tournament in England next summer. Japan, among the favourites to host the 2002 World Cup, will also compete in the event, to be staged at Wembley and other venues involved in the 1996 European Championship finals. Glen Kirton, director of organisers Euro '96, said: "Invitations have gone out to a number of countries. Brazil and Japan have accepted and it would also be attractive if we had another country from the British Isles and top nations from Europe and Africa." Around 100,000 tickets have already been sold for European finals matches.

Cartwright for Kuwait

LONDON (AFP) — Former Arsenal coach John Cartwright, currently managing London neighbours Charlton Athletic's youth team, is to embark on his third coaching spell with the Kuwait Sporting Club.

rescue at White Hart Lane. "Alan Sugar did the deal for Klinsmann in Monaco this morning," said club spokesman Nick Hewer. "The fee was two million pounds and the player has signed a two-year deal."

Tottenham start the new season minus six points, after being found guilty of making irregular payments to players.

They were also fined £1.5 million (\$2.28 million) and banned from this season's Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

Sugar said: "Juergen is looking for a challenge and has decided it is Tottenham which interests him most."

Apart from also signing Dumitrescu from Steaua Bucharest, Tottenham have been chasing similarly-priced Brazilian defender Marcio Santos, of Bordeaux, and compatriot Muller, of Sao Paulo.

Martinez advances in Vermont

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — Conchita Martinez of Spain is far different than the player who won the \$400,000 Acura U.S. hardcourts title here last year.

"I'm much more confident now," Martinez said Thursday, after cruising into the quarterfinals following a long rain delay.

She crushed Karin Kschwendt of Germany, 6-2, 6-0 in 53 minutes. Last year at the Paris Indoors, Martinez was pushed to three sets by Kschwendt before winning, 6-3 5-7 6-3.

It was the only match completed as rain and fog played havoc with the programme.

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
©1993 Tribune Media Services Inc.

THE MAGIC FIT?

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 9 7
♦ 2
♦ K 7 6 4
♦ A 7 6 4

WEST
♦ A 10 4 3
♦ J 10 5
♦ A 10 8
♦ J 8 2

EAST
♦ K 8 6
♦ A 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
♦ 9 2

SOUTH
♦ K 5 2
♦ K 9 8

SOUTH
♦ J 5 3
♦ Q 10 9

The bidding:
West: North East South
Pass Pass 1 Pass
2 Dbl Pass 2
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Check any of Eddie Kanter's books and you'll find he recommends a certain bidding of at least eight cards at the minimum for a trump suit. So what was he doing at the recent Summer North American Championships in Washington, D.C., playing a hand with six-card trump suit split evenly between his hand and dummy?

North's initial pass is not to everyone's taste. Certainly, had the hand been in the majors rather than the minors most players would have opened. Since North chose not to, a takeout double on the second round was clearly the right action.

Had South responded two no trump, North South would probably have settled in a diamond part-score which would have been touch and go.

Against two spades West led the jack of hearts. Despite the singleton in dummy, East had done well to withhold the ace and allow declarer to win the trick. Not only did East rise with the ace, but the defender further abetted South's cause by shifting to a club, declarer's queen.

The king and queen of hearts were cashed for two club discards from dummy and then the nine of hearts was played. West elected to run with the ten and dummy overruffed with the queen. The king of diamonds lost to the ace and West continued to give comfort to declarer by cashing the ace of spades and continuing with a spade to East's king.

East reverted to clubs, the table's ace winning. Declarer came to hand with the jack of diamonds, drew both missing trumps with the jack and dummy's diamonds took the rest of the tricks. Making three-odd.

Who needs trump?

Body Reform

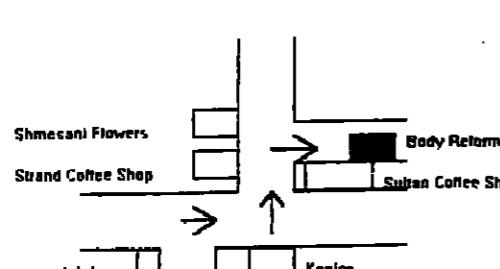
Natural Beauty Products

The End of the Summer is near!! Come to Body Reform Now and take advantage of our Wonderful Summer offer.

Come to Body Reform and Buy one Sun Protection and One Aftersun Moisturizer and get a FREE Lip Balm.

This offer is good beginning Saturday July 30 until August 2!!!

Come and Protect Yourself Today!!!



FURNISHED LUXURIOUS APARTMENT FOR RENT

With an area of 335 sq.m., 2nd floor, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, dining room, salon, living room, modern kitchen, two large balconies, laundry room, maid room, car park, telephone, no water problem. Location: 4th Circle, very close to German, Greek and Korean embassies. Tel.: 666018, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Jewelry. Gems. Birthstones. Gold.
Amra Hotel Shops. 6th Circle. Amman.

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44 LUXURY SUITES FOR RENT

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Each suite has a kitchenette with dish, C/H, tel. Min rent one floor (7 suites)
Only direct contact is accepted
Tel. 683132

FOR RENT Deluxe Unfurnished Apartment

In beautiful Khalda, away from the city's congestion, but still close to everything. First floor, 3 bedrooms, separate salon and sitting rooms, extra rooms, 2 huge verandas, lovely views. Lots of extras: American fireplace, security systems, Italian marble floors, built-in closets, walled-in courtyard with basketball court. Call 847277 or 861793

Peres scales down Golan stand, restates tough line

From Michael Jansen in Nicosia

IN A CLIMB-down from an announcement he made on July 13 that "Israel has always considered the Golan Heights as Syrian territory," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in private conversation with this correspondent during a three-day visit to Cyprus, admitted, "I was speaking of past-Israeli government policy but not of present policy..."

He explained that in the wake of the 1967 war, Israel had made it clear that it was "prepared to return to the borders" once its demands for water rights and security were met.

Mr. Peres' July 13th proclamation, made on the eve of a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, was described by the U.S. as "far-reaching" and seen as an attempt to encourage Damascus to make the sort of concessions needed to revitalise the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, stalled since the February 25 massacre of Muslim worshippers at Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

But Mr. Peres' words did not achieve the hoped for breakthrough in the talks with Syria and caused a storm of protest among supporters of Golan settlers in Israel prompting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to State: "Israel does not recognise Syrian sovereignty over the Golan."

Sources close to Mr. Peres reported that he had obtained Mr. Rabin's "full support" prior to the declaration. Mr. Rabin's desertion of his foreign minister under fire has hardly surprising as the two men have long been political rivals.

Israel Radio reported on Thursday that this rivalry flared into antagonism during the celebrations in Washington.

ton on the signing of the document ending the state of war between Israel and Jordan because Mr. Peres, considered "the architect of the peace process," was sidelined by Mr. Rabin and the Clinton administration.

In spite of such reversals, both political and personal, Mr. Peres stated that there was reason for optimism with regard to the resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks. First, he said, Syria had been "restricted in its reaction" to the signing of the Jordan-Israel document. This contrasted sharply with its outright condemnation of the Oslo accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Second, the Syrians reaffirmed their sincere intention to make peace during recent meetings with Mr. Christopher and, third, Mr. Peres stated that he was "encouraged by the condemnation of the London bombings by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra.

Mr. Peres said, however, that the two sides had not yet been able to agree on the "means" to resume bilateral meetings or the "subjects" of discussion. On means he said that on all three tracks — the Syrian, PLO and Jordanian — there had been both public and private meetings before progress was achieved but Syria had not agreed to follow this procedure. On substance he asserted that there were three issues to discuss: The nature of peace, which the Syrians insist, was settled when President Hafez Al Assad described what they meant by peace to U.S. President Bill Clinton in January; security arrangements which have reportedly been agreed; and Israeli withdrawal, which Israel argues must be partial, "on" the Golan while Damascus demands must be "from" the entirety of the Golan.

In all his public statements

(Continued from page 7)



BLAST IN MADRID: Spanish plainclothes policemen investigate the remains of the car used by Spanish General Francisco Viegas Elices after a powerful bomb killed him, his driver and a bodyguard early Friday. The bomb,

planted by Basque separatist group ETA exploded in central Madrid killing three and injuring 10 (see inside) (AP photo)

Lebanese media resume newscasts

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Private radio and television stations resumed newscasts Friday under a new law abolishing state restrictions that had muzzled nongovernment broadcasters for the last four months.

"Freedom is safe," said Elias Saliba, head of news operations at Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International, one of Lebanon's biggest private TV stations.

The unprecedented ban on

war broke out in 1975. Other stations joined the rush back to the airwaves.

"The voice has returned to the whole nation," the Sunni Muslim station Voice of the Nation said.

"Hello again and our apology for the news interruption forced on us," said George Yazbeck, chief radio announcer at Voice of Lebanon, the country's oldest privately owned stations.

The ban was imposed by Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's cabinet on March 23, ostensibly to safeguard national security during a government crackdown on right-wing Christians. The ban threw the government into confrontation with parliament, whose major blocs opposed the ban.

The ban gave the government a monopoly on locally prepared new casts. But Lebanon could continue to turn into international radio stations and pick up foreign newscasts.

"We missed you and you missed us because of a decision that was out of our control," Mr. Yazbeck said in Arabic on Voice of Lebanon at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) on the first news flash that ushered in the resumption of regular newscasts.

The station, one of the most widely listened to in Lebanon, was founded by Christians shortly after civil war broke out in 1975.

Mr. Hariri, faced with mounting accusations that he

was trying to suppress free-

dom, had to comply with parliament's decision. President Elias Hrawi signed the bill into law and it took effect Friday after appearing in the official gazette.

Executives of the privately owned stations have endorsed guidelines forbidding reports liable to endanger national security or provoke sectarian dissent that could rekindle the civil war between Christians and Muslims.

Privately owned stations, reflecting Lebanon's broad spectrum of religious and political groups, sprang up with licences during the 15-year civil war.

The ban had threatened hundreds of layoffs in a country still recuperating from the devastation of the civil war.

Beirut's 11 daily newspapers were exempt from the restrictions.

Only minutes after state-run Lebanon Radio announced that President Hrawi had signed the new bill, most of the country's 50 private television and 100 radio stations aired newscasts.

Parliament Speaker Nahib Berri led the move to restore locally prepared newscasts and pushed a bill through parliament to rescind the cabinet's decision.

Mr. Hariri, faced with mounting accusations that he

was trying to suppress free-

dom and said in a statement: "Today is a day for freedom and democracy."

The bill calls for temporary lifting of the ban until a law organising the media is passed.

The broadcasters pledged to abide by articles stipulating they should make a clear commitment to the pact of national reconciliation and respect freedom of the press and democracy.

The organisations said they had formed a committee of "Self-censorship" that would ensure all private outlets abided by the commitment.

The bill bans broadcasting of items that provoke sectarian rifts or threaten national peace. Violators will be punished in line with the press law.

The government came up with a draft bill last month that for the first time would regulate the private broadcasters, which sprung up during the civil war.

The draft needs parliament's approval and is expected to provoke debate that could go on for months. Parliament is expected to start debating the measure in September.

Seoul rejects defector's nuclear claim

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea formally dismissed on Friday claims by a North Korean defector it put on show that Pyongyang had developed five nuclear warheads.

Led by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo, top policymakers meeting in Seoul agreed the defector's remarks lacked credibility, a government spokesman told reporters.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee explained that (the Seoul government) had held thorough consultations with the United States on this matter, he said. "He reaffirmed a position that Kang Myung-Doo's statement lacks specific basis."

Mr. Kang, who said he was the only son-in-law of North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San, told an officially organised news conference in Seoul on Wednesday that Pyongyang was trying to build missiles to carry five nuclear warheads it had already developed.

North Korea has denied

Mr. Kang is related to its premier but Seoul's intelligence service, which organised the news conference, said it had confirmed the relationship.

South officials said they had no evidence North Korea had developed any nuclear bombs, although they believed it possessed 10 to 15 kilograms of plutonium.

This is in line with a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimate that Pyongyang might have one or two atomic bombs, based on its assessment made public earlier this year of how much plutonium the North could have extracted from its five-megawatt reactor during a shutdown in 1989.

CIA Director James Woolsey said last month Pyongyang could have enough plutonium for five more bombs by later this year unless its nuclear programme were halted.

South Korea's intelligence agency came under fire on Friday for producing the defector.

Both ruling and opposition

Yemen cabinet expected in early August — report

ADEN (Agencies) — A new Yemeni cabinet will be formed shortly and its southern members will be figures who openly opposed the south's civil war bid for secession, a Sanaa newspaper reported on Friday.

The paper, May 22, quoted political sources as saying a government to replace the present caretaker cabinet and oversee post-war reconstruction was expected in early August.

The newspaper, which is identified with President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) party, said the ministers would be mostly technocrats and 75 per cent of them would be newcomers.

It gave no hint who would head the country's third government since the 1990 union between North and South Yemen.

The cabinet has been headed by Acting Prime Minister Mohammad Said Al Attas of the GPC since the

sacking of Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, who supported the separatist southern cause in the two-month civil war that ended on Thursday.

The newspaper said the government would be formed along existing party lines but would exclude any member of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) "who did not declare clear and unambiguous opposition to the secession."

Ali Salem Al Beidh, who headed the YSP and served as Mr. Saleh's vice-president during the four-year union, fled abroad when the north won the war.

But with 56 seats in the 301-member parliament, the YSP remains officially the third pillar of the coalition government with the GPC, the dominant parliamentary bloc, and Islah, an umbrella group of Islamists.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim said northern

and southern Yemeni leaders agreed on the need to continue reconciliation talks after a three-hour meeting in Geneva Thursday.

had been fixed for further talks and recognised that the two sides were still divided over the organisation of dialogue in the wake of their two-month civil war.

The two sides also agreed during face-to-face talks to keep in touch with Mr. Ibrahim, who tried to broker a dialogue during the war.

Sanaa was represented by Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani, while the southern side was represented by Mr. Attas.

Yemeni diplomats had said earlier that northern authorities would refuse to hold talks with representatives of the former breakaway south, insisting that discussions should be held in Yemen.

But Mr. Ibrahim dismissed this as "speculation."

Jordan does not face serious hurdles to enter GATT — expert

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan should not have serious problems in gaining entry to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), given that the Kingdom's foreign trade policies largely fall in line with the GATT system, according to a Swedish expert.

Aken Linden, special advisor to the director-general of GATT, also said that accession to GATT, which calls for barrier-free imports, would not lead to any major changes in the customs tariff structure of Jordan and any undermining of local industries.

Mr. Linden spent last week here meeting officials and businessmen for a review of the formalities related to Jordan's application to join GATT and the pros and cons of the Kingdom being a member of the international system.

One of the key tasks that the Swedish expert undertook while in Jordan was a review of a draft statement on Jordan's economic and foreign trade policies.

Jordan applied to join GATT in January this year. In March, GATT set up a "working party" headed by Singapore to negotiate Jordan's entry, and the draft

statement is an essential substantive presentation that would be studied by the GATT general council.

Mr. Linden noted that Jordan's exports, which account for around 20 per cent of the Kingdom's gross national product, or its local industry did not stand to suffer as a result of entering GATT.

"You have a high potential for gain while you stand to lose nothing," Mr. Linden told a gathering of Jordanian business at the Chamber of Industry Wednesday evening.

The expert said he could not pinpoint in quantitative terms Jordan's gains, but that there were provisions in the GATT system to protect the Kingdom's economy against the potential flow of imports on a free-market economy approach.

Mr. Linden, who was hosted by the Chamber of Industry and held a round of talks with Finance Minister Sami Gammoh on Thursday, described his discourses here as aimed at "calming the fears" of Jordanian businessmen as to what GATT held in store for them.

GATT was established in 1947 with a view of facilitating free international trade by directly addressing customs tariffs. Since then, it had to take into consideration other barriers such as

quotas, subsidies and intellectual property rights.

After negotiations stretching almost a decade after being launched in Uruguay, GATT members endorsed expanding the scope of their agreement to include services and intellectual property rights last year. They signed the agreement in Marrakesh, Morocco, in April and paved the way for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which would eventually replace GATT.

Both GATT and WTO involve a huge maze of provisions and counterprovisions that call for barrier-free trade and services. According to Mr. Linden and other experts familiar with the complex arrangement, the key to gain the best individual benefit for a country is a very clear understanding of the document.

GATT now includes 123 countries, and the GATT council is involved in negotiations with 20 other countries on their applications to join the system. Some countries have taken as much as eight years of negotiations to enter GATT.

One of the main problems in Jordan is a fear based on the complexity of GATT that the international agreement could not mean any benefit to a small country like the Kingdom and, if anything, its local

industry could end up on the losing end of the bargain by entering the system.

By large, the belief among officials and businessmen appears to be that GATT membership is of possible benefit to Jordan's exports, but the Kingdom's local industry could suffer as a result of a free flow of foreign products.

Furthermore, they also feel that Jordan stands to lose a lot by opening up the services sector and the flow of intellectual property rights in to barrier-free exchanges but under clear international obligations. They prefer to limit Jordan's involvement at this point in time to trade in GATT.

Individual countries with peculiar economic features are entitled to secure provisions in their agreements with GATT, which allow for protective measures for such countries under specific conditions and undertakings.

In the case of Jordan, which is implementing an economic restructuring programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Kingdom could seek quota provisions for imports to ensure a stable balance of payments situation, Mr. Linden said.

Similarly, the Kingdom, like other GATT members, could also introduce extra duties to prevent "dumping" — the flow of foreign products into Jordan at a price cheaper than the local market price of their domestic equivalents.

According to Mr. Linden,

the accepted level of customs tariffs by GATT is 40 per cent to 50 per cent and in

most cases Jordanian customs duties fall in this range. As such, "I don't anticipate any major changes to Jordan's customs tariff structure of a level that would undermine the local industry," he said.

GATT has no say in internal taxation, he said in response to a question how he viewed the possibility that the government might make up for the possible loss in customs revenues by increasing additional taxes.

Customs duties account for around 20 per cent of the local revenues in the budget, and businessmen believe that the slightest decline in customs income to the treasury would be made up through additional taxes.

Jordan could also adopt protective measures with GATT approval to protect its agricultural sector, which is given a special status in the international agreement, he pointed out.

Mr. Linden expected that, at the present pace of negotiations and given the minimum time for internal GATT deliberations and an obligatory two-thirds vote of approval, Jordan's accession to GATT could be completed in about one year to 18 months time.

Covered in the process

would be questions raised by GATT members and answers provided by Jordan and spe-

cific conditions attachments to the Kingdom's entry. These could be a general arrangement with all GATT members and on a bilateral basis blessed by the Geneva-based body whenever

needed.

Although expected to be replaced by WTO when it comes into being next year, GATT will remain in existence for some years for countries which might want to limit their involvement in international agreements to trade in goods and to allow for ongoing negotiations on GATT entries with some countries to be completed.

Mr. Linden said Thursday after his meeting with the finance minister that he "got the impression" that Jordan might want to apply for direct WTO membership rather than going through the two steps; entry to GATT and then into WTO at a later stage.

But Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times on Friday that he was only trying to "figure out the best and most advantageous way" for Jordan to enter the realm of international trade agreements, and "whether it is better to go to WTO or through GATT."

No definite ideas have been formulated, and the whole issue is under study," the minister said.

COLUMN 10 2 Turners among 3 pictures stolen in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Two paintings by the English master William Turner and a third by German artist Caspar David Friedrich were stolen from an art gallery here in an overnight raid, police said Friday. Two thieves